

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Nashville Public Education Foundation Pushing for City Opportunity Index and District Equity Metrics to Measure and Map Student Inequities

*NPEF's latest brief calls for comprehensive analysis of resources and conditions in Nashville neighborhoods and schools*

**NASHVILLE, TENN. – July 28, 2022** – In an effort to improve the way Nashville supports its students, NPEF has released a brief exploring the connection between resources and conditions available to students and their outcomes in school. The brief, titled “[Designing the Future: How Measuring and Mapping Student Opportunities in Nashville Can Improve Outcomes for Kids](#)” examines the critical need to collect and map data about student experiences in and out of school to inform policies, practices, and resources that support Nashville’s children and youth. The brief explores the multitude of factors that lead to student success and envisions a city that prioritizes children and youth in all aspects of policymaking.

NPEF is calling for a Nashville Children and Youth Opportunity Index, a comprehensive analysis of resources and conditions present in a child’s life, to create an accurate picture of opportunity across the city and support the creation of equitable policy solutions. While the city measures neighborhood opportunities for students, we must also assess student access to opportunities in our schools.

NPEF applauds Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) for releasing its [Equity Roadmap](#), which includes a set of indicators such as access to effective teaching, performance on assessments, and on-time graduation. NPEF encourages the district to report on these equity metrics disaggregated by race, income, disability status and language proficiency to support and reinforce systems, policies, and practices driving equitable outcomes for students.

“Schools and teachers alone cannot address the opportunity gaps children are experiencing in Nashville,” said **Katie Cour, President and CEO of the Nashville Public Education Foundation**. “We want Nashville to be known as a city that puts its children and youth at the forefront of decision making. That means we must change the way we support children and youth in all aspects of their lives, using data to form an accurate and comprehensive picture that helps us design more equitable solutions for kids.”

NPEF’s brief examines data from existing opportunity indices that measure the economic, educational, and environmental opportunities for and well-being of children and youth. Tennessee consistently ranks in the bottom 25% of states in these indices, and Davidson County ranks 90<sup>th</sup> out of 95 counties in Tennessee’s own [Child Well-Being county profiles](#). Using data from the national [Child Opportunity Index](#), NPEF finds that just 12 percent of MNPS schools sit in high opportunity zip codes. Furthermore, NPEF’s most recent annual poll in 2021 found that only one in five Nashvillians surveyed believed Nashville is a city that adequately prioritizes its children and youth.

The push for the Nashville Children and Youth Opportunity Index and MNPS equity metrics are NPEF’s latest steps in the foundation’s work to eliminate barriers for kids. In the last two years, NPEF has released a [brief](#) examining the inequities in Nashville public schools and naming the community’s collective responsibility to dismantle racist structures inhibiting student success; a documentary: [By Design: The Shaping of Nashville’s Public Schools](#) exploring the design of Nashville schools within a larger system of social structures that systemically prevent students of color and their families from gaining access to resources that help them succeed; and a [brief](#) to further describe how city structures and systems prevent low-income students and students of color from thriving.

To read the full equity brief and join the Nashville Public Education Foundation in discussions around equity metrics, visit [nashvillepef.org/](https://nashvillepef.org/).

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### **Supporting Metro Nashville Public Schools for 20 Years**

For two decades, the Nashville Public Education Foundation (NPEF) has consistently prioritized the needs of students and schools in a rapidly evolving city. With an unwavering focus on helping to shape a future where every student thrives, NPEF has proven that bold change is best achieved with an informed and united community of educators and business and civic leaders.

Since its founding in 2002, NPEF has fostered data-driven solutions that have led to tangible results in professional learning for teachers, school funding, teacher pay, principal quality, and more. To learn about the milestones of NPEF's support of Metro Nashville Public Schools and its students, visit [nashvillepef.org/history](https://nashvillepef.org/history).

### **About the Nashville Public Education Foundation**

The Nashville Public Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization that works to remove the barriers to educational experiences by highlighting success, serving as a strategic thought partner to Metro Nashville Public Schools, convening stakeholders, and advocating for change so all students can thrive in school. Since its founding in 2002, NPEF has fostered data-driven solutions that have led to tangible results in professional learning for teachers, teacher pay, principal quality, college access and success, and more. To learn about NPEF's support of Metro Nashville Public Schools and its students, visit [nashvillepef.org](https://nashvillepef.org).

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