# A YEAR IN REVIEW 2022





HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE SINCE 2002



# YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR OUR STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS.

Dear Friends of Public Education,

We are thrilled to be celebrating our 20th year with you! For two decades, the Nashville Public Education Foundation (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.

Founded originally as a fundraising organization to support Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS), our mission has evolved to include strategic programming and investments that celebrate the successes of our educators and schools, advocacy for improved policies, support for MNPS as a consultant and thought partner, and opportunities to bring stakeholders together to tackle some of education's biggest problems.

The Nashville Public Education Foundation serves a critical role in our community to improve outcomes for our students. By supporting our work and our public schools, you are making a difference for Nashville's children and youth. Thank you for your support as we work to ensure all students thrive in our public schools every day.

With gratitude,

Meg Harris

Margaret L'Havis

NPEF Board Chair

Katie Cour

President and CEO

**MEG** 



**KATIE** 



## A YEAR IN REVIEW

2022

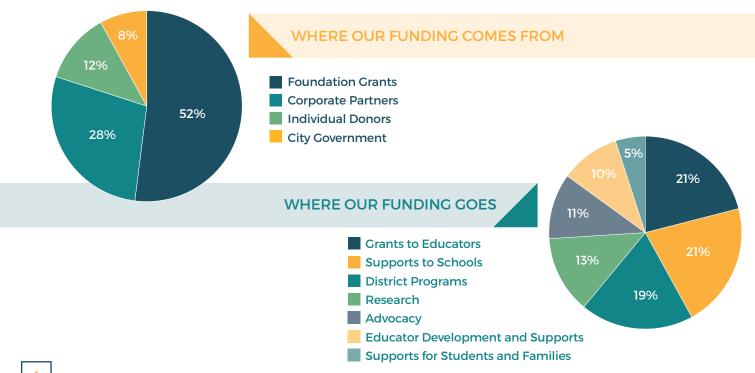


HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE SINCE 2002

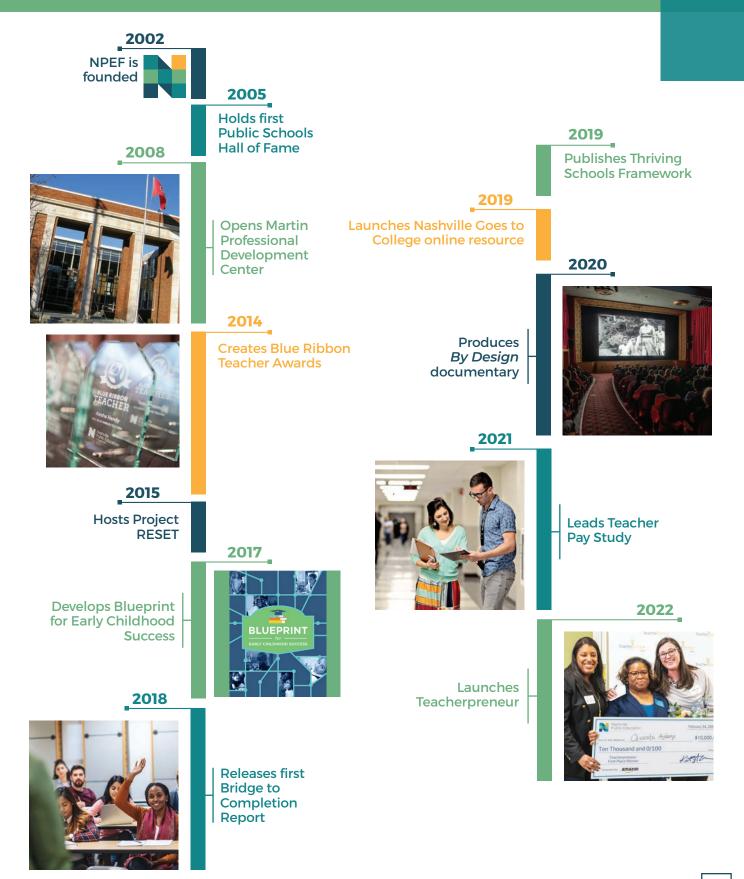
### **CELEBRATING OUR 20TH YEAR**

The Nashville Public Education Foundation is celebrating its 20th anniversary year! For two decades, NPEF has worked to improve public schools first through fundraising and more recently by supporting teachers and leaders, celebrating success and innovation, and advocating for change.

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.



### THE HISTORY OF NPEF



### CONVENING STAKEHOLDERS

We convene community leaders and stakeholders to tackle some of education's most challenging issues.



### FACILITATING CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS

### **Better Together**

We facilitate the Better Together collaboration between MNPS and Nashville State Community College to help ensure any MNPS student can be successful at Nashville State.

### Partnership for Educational Equity Research (PEER)

We lead conversations between Vanderbilt University and MNPS to codesign and pursue an equity-focused research agenda leading to changes in classroom practice.

### By Design: The Shaping of Nashville's Public Schools

Building on the release of our documentary about the history of Nashville public schools, screenings continued in 2022, with over 5,500 viewers to date. The film was also screened at South by Southwest (SXSW) EDU, an event that fosters innovation and learning in the education industry. The film was also embedded in MNPS's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion professional development for all teachers.

66 NPEF leads the right conversations by bringing diverse voices to the table to celebrate successes and to drive change, and by connecting people who share our passion for seeing all students thrive in Nashville's public schools. 99

MEG HARRIS, NPEF BOARD CHAIR



### SUPPORTING METRO SCHOOLS

We support Metro Nashville Public Schools as a thought partner, driving strategic discussions and leading district strategies.

### SUPPORTING GREAT TEACHING AND LEADING

### **Teacher Leadership Institute**

We support MNPS's Teacher Leadership Institute (TLI), a multi-year cohort experience in which teachers grow their skills, experience, and network to address school-based inequities.

### **Science of Learning**

We funded an interactive professional learning mini-series for MNPS middle school teachers about the science of learning.

### **College Access Champions**

Our College Access Champions Fellowship, a collaboration with GEAR UP Nashville and Oasis Center, trains and empowers MNPS educators to help students navigate the college-going process.

### **Principal Supervisor Support**

We funded the National Institute of Excellence in Teaching to support our principal supervisors to develop great principals.

### ENHANCING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

#### **Tech Goes Home**

We provide technology training and free laptops and hotspots to MNPS families to help address the digital divide.

#### Music Makes Us

We invest in music instruction and instruments to improve MNPS students' access to great music education.



# CELEBRATING SUCCESS AND INNOVATION

We celebrate innovative and inspiring ideas, practices, and achievements that help build thriving schools.

### BRINGING NASHVILLE TOGETHER IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS



### The 18th Annual Public Schools Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame has become an annual milestone for community leaders to gather to celebrate the successes happening in Nashville's schools, honor individuals and organizations committed to our schools and students, and to inspire solutions to challenges in education.

Honoring NPEF's
Founding Director,
Kay Simmons, with
the Nelson C. Andrews
Distinguished
Service Award



Kay Simmons was posthumously honored with the prestigious Nelson C. Andrews Distinguished Service Award at this year's

Public Schools Hall of Fame for her service and dedication to ensuring Nashville's children and youth – particularly those experiencing the most hardship or barriers to success – were seen, heard, and represented. She was relentless in her pursuit of all students thriving in school each day.



### HONORING OUR CITY'S TOP TEACHING TALENT

#### **Blue Ribbon Teacher Awards**

Since 2014, we have partnered with Metro Nashville Public Schools and Nashville's Agenda to honor more than 400 exceptional educators in our district.

#### **Music Teachers of Excellence**

NPEF is proud to partner with the Country Music Association Foundation to support its national teacher recognition program, which honors ten amazing MNPS educators annually. Teachers come to work every day focused on meeting students where they are, helping them succeed, and being leaders in their classrooms and schools. We're grateful to the Nashville Public Education Foundation for continuing to celebrate great teaching with such generosity every year.

~DR. ADRIENNE BATTLE
MNPS DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

### LEVERAGING TEACHERS TO DRIVE CHANGE



### **Teacherpreneur**

This year we launched a new program aimed at harnessing educator innovation – Teacherpreneur, a professional learning experience for educators to develop their big ideas into pilot programs that could make a major impact for students, families, and schools in our district. Participants pitched their plans for a chance to win \$25,000 and seed funding to pilot their ideas.

The top award of \$10,000 went to Quanita Adams, a Pearl-Cohn High School teacher, who proposed a network of supports for novice teachers in schools that experience high teacher turnover.



Teacherpreneur puts education experts in the driver's seat and enables them to use their expertise to make crucial changes for our students. ••

~INAUGURAL TEACHERPRENEUR COHORT MEMBER



### ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

We advocate for improved policies and practices that remove barriers to student success in public education.

#### RAISING AWARENESS ON CRITICAL TOPICS

### Working towards better pay for support staff

We worked with MNPS and the Urban Schools Human Capital Academy to analyze pay for non-teaching support such as bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and teacher's aides. The study led to a significant increase in pay for support roles.

### Five years of college-going data

For the fifth year in a row, we collaborated with MNPS and the Tennessee College Access and Success Network to release the Bridge to Completion report, an annual analysis of postsecondary data of MNPS graduates and recommendations for improving student access and success in college.

### Advocating for funding reform

NPEF raised awareness around the need to reform the state's funding formula and increase the total state allocation to education. We helped drive conversations around including a Cost Differential Factor, which helps account for Nashville's high cost of living, in the final Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement legislation.





### **DISMANTLING EDUCATION INEQUITIES**

### Designing a system that works for all students

We released a shortened version of our documentary, By Design: The Shaping of Nashville's Public Schools, that focuses on the desegregation era as well as a brief that encourages more conversations about the policies and decisions in our city's history that have established and exacerbated inequities for students.

We released a brief that explores how data on student experiences in and out of school are critical to informing policies and practices in our city, and we called for the creation of a Nashville Children and Youth Opportunity Index to assess student opportunities in our city and schools.

> 66 NPEF helps teachers and principals identify innovative strategies to improve education for all students and keeps the community focused on creating a better future for our children.

> > ~TONY HEARD -NPEF PAST BOARD CHAIR











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Brenda Wynn

And the hundreds of Friends of Public Education who have supported us this year.





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