

# TOWARDS A CITY THAT PRIORITIZES CHILDREN AND YOUTH

For every student to thrive in school, we need a city that prioritizes children and youth in all aspects of their lives. Take a look back at 20 years of city actions to support children and youth.

2002

**Mayor's Office of Children and Youth**  
Nashville creates its first Office for Children and Youth charged with coordinating efforts that affect children and youth and setting a vision for the next generation. The office was eliminated in the FY17 budget.

2003

**Mayor's Summit on Children and Youth**  
A key early initiative of the Mayor's office of Children and Youth was a two day citywide summit. The summit included panels of youth development and policy experts and voices of young people to draw attention to challenges and posit solutions for children and youth.

2007

**Academies of Nashville**  
MNPS launches an innovative high school transformation effort with its Academies of Nashville, which engage the business community to support student success across 35 different career opportunities.

2008

**Mayor's Youth Council**  
Nashville seats its city's first youth council charged with providing input on issues that affect children and youth and endorsing strategies and initiatives that benefit children and youth. The Mayor's youth council, supported by the Oasis Center and sponsored by the Mayor's office, is still in existence today.

2009

**Nashville After Zone Alliance**  
NAZA is developed as a city-wide outside-of-school time program to increase equitable access to after school programs. In 2014, NAZA was moved from the Mayor's office to the Nashville Public Library.

2010

**Child and Youth Master Plan**  
Nashville creates its first Child and Youth Master Plan to provide a roadmap for connecting children and youth with needed resources. The plan identified goals and strategies in five areas: health, safety, out of school time, education lifecycle, and mobility and stability.

2015

## Nashville Next

NashvilleNext is a plan by residents to provide direction on the physical structure of Davidson County – the things we build, how and where we build them, and the places we preserve. The plan includes a focus on education and youth and is designed to guide us into 2040.

2016

## Youth Violence Summits

Nashville launches a series of youth violence summits to get input from young people on how to mitigate youth violence in Nashville. The summits resulted in a report that focused on strategies around training and employment, youth engagement, health, restorative justice, safety, and education.

2017

## Opportunity NOW

Nashville launches Opportunity NOW (now called the POWER Youth program) to provide career exploration and work experience activities for youth 14 to 24 years old.

2021

## MNPS School Board Youth Board Seats

The Metro Nashville Public Schools Board of Education reappoints two non-voting youth members to the school board to increase representation of the student experience in district policy discussions.

2022

## Youth Career Exploration Opportunities

Nashville launches a cross-sector task force to identify ways to expand workforce development and career exploration options for youth and young adults.

2022

## Nashville's Youth Agenda

In September, the city announces the "Agenda for Nashville's Youth," which includes prioritization of public school funding, youth workforce development, and out-of-school programming.

*How can Nashville capitalize on these previous investments to build a vision for children and youth that will carry us into the next era?*

