

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nashville Public Education Foundation Releases Guide Addressing Education Issues and Opportunities for Mayoral Candidates

Data, examples, and case studies in NPEF's latest brief outline roles and priorities for mayoral candidates to improve public education

NASHVILLE, TENN. – April 26, 2023 – Aiming to advance positive student outcomes, the Nashville Public Education Foundation issued a new policy briefing entitled “*Becoming the Education Mayor: A Guide for Nashville Mayoral Candidates.*” The guide, available for [download](#) on the foundation’s website, addresses the roles that mayors can and should play to improve public education and highlights five critical issues facing Nashville’s next leader.

“We know education mayors spend time, money, and energy to move the needle for kids every day they are in office and we want to help our future mayor be ready for that job on day one,” said **Katie Cour, Nashville Public Education Foundation President & CEO**. “We want the next mayor of Nashville to be deeply invested in our public schools, so we’re working this election season to ensure public education is central to candidates’ platforms.”

NPEF has a long history of providing insightful and thought-provoking resources to inform policy and practice in Nashville’s public schools. The purpose of the policy guide is to give mayoral candidates and the broader community an overview of the key issues and possible solutions NPEF sees in public education across Nashville today and to make it clear that the onus of solving the issues facing our schools does not rest with our public schools alone.

“In recent years, MNPS has made excellent strides for students as evidenced by the district’s improvements in accountability status and student growth data,” **Cour** said. “But we know the city can do more to support our schools to ensure that Nashville is a place where all kids are thriving in our public schools.”

The guide defines the key issues facing Nashville public schools in the context of lower than desired student achievement levels. Those issues include inequity of opportunities and outcomes, an expanding public school ecosystem and school choice, student enrollment declines, teacher pipeline challenges, and sustainable college and career pathways. The guide offers case study insights and examples of ways that other mayors across the U.S. have chosen to address similar challenges.

NPEF regularly works to stimulate informed conversations and debates around issues in public education in Nashville. In addition to the new guide for mayoral candidates, NPEF has issued [five questions](#) for the community to use when engaging with candidates during this election season. The foundation will not make endorsements of any candidate but will focus on helping to inform voters about the positions and plans of mayoral candidates through social and traditional media, direct meetings with candidates, published answers to candidate survey questions and live online video chats with candidates.

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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 our public schools and its students, visit nashvillepef.org.

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