

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2023



Nashville
Public Education
FOUNDATION

HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE SINCE 2002

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE
FOR NASHVILLE'S STUDENTS

DEAR FRIENDS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION,

The Nashville Public Education Foundation (NPEF) has come a long way since its founding in 2002, and we are excited to share highlights of our 21st year with you. Founded as a fundraising organization for Metro Nashville Public Schools, NPEF has evolved to focus on driving transformational change through data, research, and collaboration.

We believe we all have a role to play to ensure students thrive in our public schools. While Metro Schools must continue to diligently address low achievement levels and gaps among student groups, we do not believe that the onus of improving student achievement is solely on the school district. In fact, we believe that the only way to significantly see achievement increases at scale is to simultaneously address structural inequities in our neighborhoods, strengthen the conditions in our schools that support student achievement and growth, and push for a more inclusive and holistic definition of student and school success. And we can't do that work without you.

On behalf of the NPEF Board of Directors and team, thank you for believing in our mission. As you will see on the following pages, we have accomplished a lot this year. But there is much more work that needs to be done. Thank you for your partnership and your passion as we work towards the day when every child is thriving in our public schools.

With gratitude,



Alfonzo Alexander
NPEF Board Chair



Katie Cour
President and CEO



A YEAR IN REVIEW

This past year, we continued our deep investments in teachers through innovative programming and direct grants for educators. We also continued our long-standing investment in music education and a more recent commitment to eliminating the digital divide for MNPS families. We were thrilled to launch the Nashville Child and Youth Collaborative with twelve nonprofits to focus city conversations on the needs of our young people. And we continued to collaborate with the district to support its strategic investments in school leadership, equity, and postsecondary success.

REVIEW

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE & Honoring Service

CELEBRATING OUR 19TH PUBLIC SCHOOLS HALL OF FAME

On September 27, NPEF brought the community together to celebrate the great work happening in our public schools and honor distinguished alumni and leaders who are making a difference in Nashville.

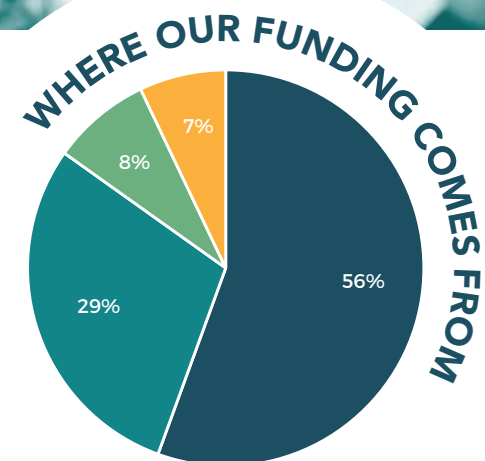
What began with a few hundred people in a small auditorium, the Public Schools Hall of Fame has become one of the most inspirational events in Nashville. Along the way, the Hall of Fame has tripled in size, inducted 62 distinguished alumni, honored 21 individuals with the Nelson C. Andrews Distinguished Service Award, and awarded over \$150,000 in grants to inspiring organizations, educators, and leaders. And because of the generosity of the Nashville community, the Public Schools Hall of Fame has raised over \$4 million to support NPEF's work on behalf of Nashville's public schools.

Hal Cato celebrates receiving the Nelson C. Andrews Distinguished Service Award with friends and colleagues who share his dedication to the Nashville community.

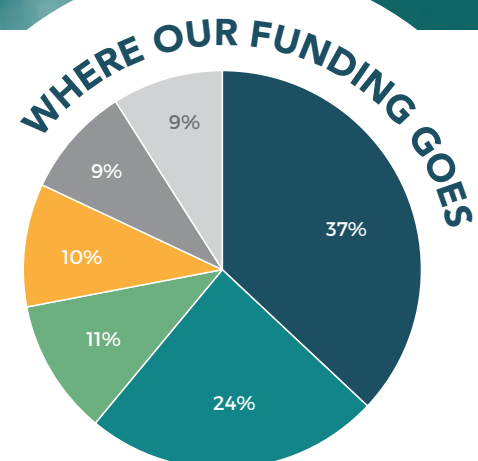
Inspiring Leader honoree Dr. Brian Mells, Inspiring Educator honorees Dr. Jessica Abarquez-New and Lauren Binkley, and Inspiring Innovation honorees Voces de Nashville and Water Walkers celebrate with award sponsors Lipscomb University, UBS, and Nissan.



MNPS graduates and Distinguished Alumni honorees Rep. Harold Love, Jr., André Prince, and Linda Eskind Rebrovick are inducted into the Public Schools Hall of Fame.



- Foundation Grants
- Corporate Partners
- Individual Donors
- City Government



- District Programs
- Supports to Schools
- Grants to Educators
- Educator Development and Supports
- Raising Awareness
- Supports for Students and Families

RAISING AWARENESS

About Critical Topics In Public Education

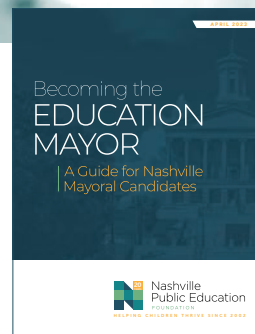
“The Nashville Public Education Foundation is data-driven and results-oriented. Misinformation abounds in conversations about public education. Assuring that we collectively enter the discussion on a verified set of facts is a very important foundational step to ensure we make real progress.”

RALPH DAVIS,
NPEF BOARD MEMBER

SHARING ACCESSIBLE RESOURCES

This year NPEF produced several resources to help break down complex issues in public education. Our infographics, *Need to Know* series, and policy briefs covered a range of topics, including:

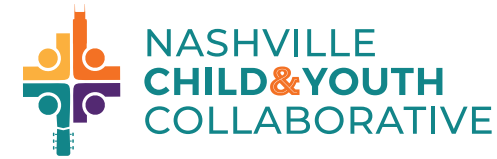
- School accountability
- School choice
- 3rd grade retention
- Charter schools
- Early post-secondary opportunities



#NextNashvilleEdMayor

To help inform voters ahead of the 2023 municipal elections and to spur conversations about the mayor's role in improving public education, NPEF released

Becoming the Education Mayor, a guide that outlines the critical issues facing public schools. We also surveyed mayoral candidates on their views and their proposed policies on public education. Survey results were widely shared to help voters better understand the platforms of each candidate and to help prioritize public education as a central issue in the election.

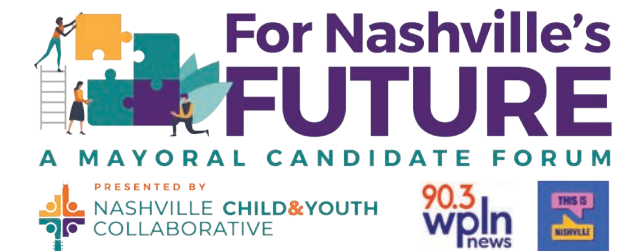


CONVENING STAKEHOLDERS

To Solve Problems Together

LAUNCHING THE NASHVILLE CHILD AND YOUTH COLLABORATIVE

Alongside 12 nonprofit partners who work with or on behalf of children and youth in Nashville, NPEF launched the Nashville Child and Youth Collaborative to elevate the needs of Nashville's young people. The collaborative's work culminated in a forum for mayoral candidates – For Nashville's Future — held in partnership with WPLN. Moderated by This is Nashville host Khalil Ekulona, the forum's questions were developed from responses from a youth survey and students from the Mayor's Youth Council helped pose questions directly to candidates.



At NPEF, we believe all children can thrive in our public schools, but to get there three things need to happen:

1

IMPROVE HOW OUR STUDENTS ARE EXPERIENCING SCHOOL:

- Develop highly effective teachers
- Create welcoming, inclusive school cultures
- Invest in school leadership
- Deliver engaging, relevant content



2

ENSURE THE CITY PRIORITIZES CHILDREN & YOUTH IN ALL ASPECTS OF THEIR LIVES:

- Center children and youth in city planning
- Coordinate services across agencies
- Clearly communicate about city services
- Maintain strategic and sustainable investments



3

ALIGN EFFORTS AND WORK TOWARD COMMON GOALS:

- Clarify roles of organizations
- Assess and communicate neighborhood opportunities
- Establish shared and inspirational citywide goals
- Identify strategy alignment opportunities



**ALL CHILDREN
THRIVING IN
OUR PUBLIC
SCHOOLS
EVERY DAY**

NPEF's job is to identify challenges that get in the way of student success and advance evidence-based solutions for those challenges by:



Raising awareness about challenges to increase understanding of and support for research-based solutions



Convening stakeholders to discuss challenges and build solutions together



Investing in what works to break down barriers to student success



Facilitating conversations with partners to drive toward solutions and maximize impact

Prioritizing Children & Youth | Building Consensus | Investing in Solutions

INVESTING In What Works

“The Nashville Public Education Foundation continues to celebrate and support outstanding teachers in MNPS. We’re grateful to NPEF for acknowledging and uplifting the highly effective educators who serve the talented students of Nashville.”

DR. ADRIENNE BATTLE,
MNPS DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS



TEACHERPRENEUR

Teacherpreneur harnesses educator innovation by helping teachers build out ideas into pilot programs that could make a transformational impact on students, families, and schools. Participants pitch their ideas to a panel of judges for a chance at \$25,000 in cash prizes and seed funding to pilot their ideas.

BLUE RIBBON TEACHER

Since 2014, we have partnered with MNPS and Nashville’s Agenda to recognize top teaching talent in our district through the Blue Ribbon Teacher designation.

TECH GOES HOME

Tech Goes Home provides training and laptops to MNPS families to help decrease the digital divide and support parent engagement. This year, Tech Goes Home served over 100 MNPS families.

SCIENCE OF LEARNING

We support a cohort of educators to learn instructional strategies informed by cognitive science and conduct action research on the impact of these strategies in their classrooms.

MUSIC MAKES US

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



SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHERPRENEUR ADDISON BARRACK: SIFE TRANSITION FACILITATORS

SIFE Transition Facilitators, a program conceived by Addison Barrack, an inaugural Teacherpreneur winner, provides additional supports and resources to Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE) and their families as they transition from the district’s one-year SIFE program to a general education setting. The SIFE Transition Facilitators serve as case managers for transitioning students, supporting them with resources, facilitating conversations with other teachers and parents, and serving as an advocate and mentor to help ensure a smooth transition.



“Participating in Teacherpreneur was one of the most empowering experiences of my time in education. NPEF’s guidance and mentorship has been invaluable and has continued to develop me as a teacher leader.”

ADDISON BARRACK, FORMER
TEACHERPRENEUR PARTICIPANT
3RD PLACE WINNER

FACILITATING Critical Conversations



“The Nashville Public Education Foundation serves a unique role in our city, bringing together stakeholders and decision makers to examine the most critical issues facing our students, and building consensus on the solutions that best support our children and youth.”

GINI PUPO-WALKER,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
EDUCATION TRUST IN TENNESSEE

BETTER TOGETHER

We facilitate the Better Together partnership between Metro Schools and Nashville State Community College, which is home to 1 in 5 MNPS graduates, to ensure MNPS students are successful at Nashville State.

PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUITY RESEARCH (PEER)

We help facilitate the conversations of PEER’s Steering Committee, which includes leaders from MNPS and Vanderbilt’s Peabody College, to support the use of research to inform district policies and practices.

PRINCIPAL PIPELINE PARTNERSHIP

NPEF works alongside Metro Schools to identify ways to strengthen the principal pipeline and ensure that every school has a high-quality school leader.

LUNCH AND LEARNS

NPEF hosts community members at lunch and learns throughout the year to explore topics like the education ecosystem in Nashville and what works in urban education.

NPEF

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Ralph Davis, Vice Chair

Sheila Calloway, Secretary

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Tony Heard, At-Large Member



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RALPH



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HARRY



MEG



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Gail Williams

Jerry B. Williams

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Brenda Wynn



NPEF Team

Katie Cour, President and CEO

Colleen Gilligan, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Melinda Judd, Senior Vice President of Development and Outreach

Tashaye Woods, Director of Project Management



Thank you to our incredible partners
who make our work possible.

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Scarlett Family
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Orion Building Corp.
Piedmont Natural Gas
Pinnacle Financial Partners
Regions Bank
Ryman Hospitality
Properties Foundation
Carole and John Sargent
Dana and Tom Sherrard
Sherrard, Roe, Voigt &
Harbison
Keith B. Simmons
Becca Stevens
Studio Bank
Synovus Bank
Tennessee Titans
Tiny Mighty
Communications
Aleta and Byron Trauger
Wiseman Ashworth
Trauger

TRAILBLAZERS

Alexander Success Group
Melinda and Jeffrey Balser
Bank of Tennessee
The Blum Family
Foundation
Michael Burcham
Sheila Calloway
Kate and Matt Chinn
Judith and
Joe C. Cook, Jr.
Brenda and Ron Corbin
Kevin Crumbo
Suann and Ralph Davis, Jr.

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The Steven & Laurie
Eskind Family Foundation
The Strategy Group
Truist Bank
Dwayne Tucker
Nicky Weaver
Barton Weeks
West Family Foundation
Gail Williams
Mathew Wisner
Brenda Wynn

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

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CONVENING STAKEHOLDERS
INVESTING IN WHAT WORKS
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