

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nashville Public Education Foundation Receives Over \$1 Million to Expand Tech Goes Home Program

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development and Tennessee Valley Authority fund NPEF to increase digital literacy and access for public school families in Metro Nashville

NASHVILLE, TENN. – November 19, 2024 – The Nashville Public Education Foundation (NPEF) has been awarded over \$1 million in grants from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD) and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to expand its digital outreach initiatives through its successful Tech Goes Home program. The combined funding will enable NPEF to bridge the digital divide among Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) families and make a broader impact in Davidson County. Based on the Tech Goes Home Tennessee model, NPEF's initiative will now empower more than 1,000 MNPS families with enhanced digital skills through the additional grants.



"We know that too many of our families lack access to a reliable home device as well as the digital skills needed to support their students' learning," said **Katie Cour, President and CEO of the Nashville Public Education Foundation**. "We are grateful for this substantial increase in funding and are excited to continue our work to decrease the digital divide among our families."

The Tech Goes Home program is designed to address the digital divide across Nashville public schools by providing technology training, digital literacy skills, and laptops to families MNPS. The program prioritizes families in schools with high percentages of economically disadvantaged students and includes interpreters, childcare, and meals to decrease barriers and promote participation.

Since its launch in November 2022 at Madison Middle School with funding from Google Fiber, Tech Goes Home has supported families from 19 MNPS schools across eight school clusters, distributing over 100 laptops to those who complete the program.

As announced in April, TNECD's funding is part of a \$27.9 million Digital Skills, Employment and Workforce Development (DSEW) statewide initiative aimed at ensuring Tennesseans have access to technology, reliable internet, and digital literacy skills. This grant will support the Tech Goes Home program for 1,000 families in over 45 MNPS schools.

TVA's funding is part of its Connected Communities grants, which seek to improve community access to digital services. With these funds, NPEF piloted a unique parent engagement focused version of Tech Goes Home called Connecting Families for Student Success, which aims to impact

144 MNPS families who attend Title I schools. Families will take home devices and continue building digital literacy through additional online modules.

MNPS families interested in improving their digital literacy and access through Tech Goes Home can inquire about enrolling in a course at info@nashvillepef.org. Learn more about the program at nashvillepef.org/tech-goes-home/.

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About the Nashville Public Education Foundation

The Nashville Public Education Foundation (NPEF) is a nonprofit organization committed to ensuring every child can thrive in Nashville's public schools. NPEF works to improve student outcomes in Nashville's public schools by identifying challenges and advancing evidence-based solutions. Since 2002, NPEF's role as a catalyst for transformation has yielded tangible results in areas such as teacher professional development, teacher compensation, principal quality and college access. Learn more at nashvillepef.org.

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