

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2024



Nashville
Public Education
FOUNDATION

HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE SINCE 2002



THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR NASHVILLE'S STUDENTS

DEAR FRIENDS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION,

2024 has been an amazing year for the Nashville Public Education Foundation. This past year, we launched several new programs, provided insight and analysis to Metro Nashville Public Schools, convened hundreds of stakeholders to learn and solve problems together, and continued to raise awareness of the critical issues facing our students every day.

Since its founding in 2002, NPEF has served a critical role in our community, working alongside the district and our community partners to remove barriers to success for our students. We believe we all have a role to play to ensure students thrive in our public schools. 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. We hope as you read through the following pages, you will be as excited as we are about our work and impact. But there is much more work that needs to be done. Thank you for your partnership as we work towards the day when every child is thriving in our public schools.

With gratitude,

Ralph Davis
NPEF Board Chair

Katie Cour
President and CEO



A YEAR IN

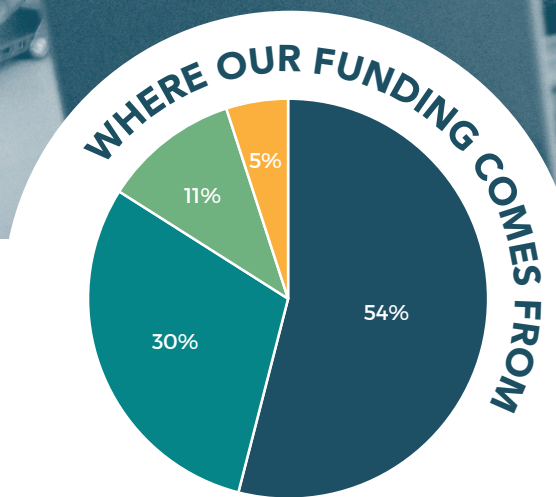
REVIEW

CHECK OUT SOME OF NPEF'S HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

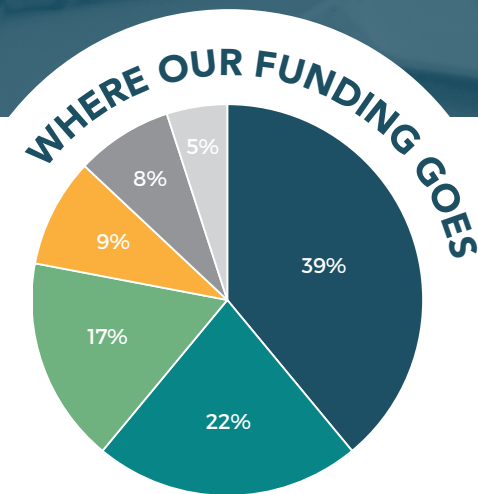
The Nashville Public Education Foundation identifies challenges and advances evidence-based solutions to help all students thrive in our public schools.

WE FOCUS ON TWO PRIMARY GOALS:

- 1] Raising awareness about the most critical issues facing Nashville's public school students and
- 2] Investing in strategies that improve outcomes for students.



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



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

1] JANUARY

NPEF releases infographic: "Unpacking MNPS's A-F Accountability Ratings"

2] FEBRUARY

NPEF launches the 2024 Leadership Public Education cohort in partnership with the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

NPEF's third Teacherpreneur cohort pitches their ideas to a panel of judges for a chance at cash prizes and seed funding



3] MARCH

NPEF releases two infographics: "What We Know about the Impact of School Vouchers" and "Unpacking Tennessee's Education Savings Account/Voucher Program"

4] APRIL

The Nashville Child and Youth Collaborative, which NPEF helped launch in 2023, partners with Council Member Zulfat Suara to host the Day of Youth in Local Government



5] MAY

NPEF launches Tech Goes Home: Teacher Edition to help teachers leverage technology in their classrooms. Participating teachers received training and a free iPad.



NPEF releases infographic: "What Works in Urban Education: Teacher Recruitment"

6] JUNE

NPEF premieres our documentary "Why I Teach" at a symposium hosted with Lipscomb University to dispel myths about teaching and discuss the profession's sustainability

WHY I TEACH SYMPOSIUM & FILM PREMIERE

NPEF releases infographic: "What Works in Urban Education: Teacher Retention"

7] JULY

NPEF and the Nashville Chamber celebrate the graduation of the 2024 Leadership Public Education cohort



8] AUGUST

NPEF launches a new branch of Tech Goes Home - Connecting Families for Student Success - to pair technology training with a family engagement curriculum

9] SEPTEMBER

NPEF hosts the 20th annual Public Schools Hall of Fame at Music City Center



NPEF releases latest infographic in the Need to Know series on Career and Technical Education

10] OCTOBER

NPEF awards 25 Blue Ribbon Teachers in partnership with MNPS and Nashville's Agenda



11] NOVEMBER

NPEF releases infographic: "Understanding Tennessee's Student Assessment System"

12] DECEMBER

NPEF announces 4th Teacherpreneur cohort

RAISING AWARENESS

About Critical Topics In Public Education

We believe that informed and productive community conversations about issues affecting our students are foundational to creating change. That's why we **share accessible and clear information** about public education in Nashville, breaking down often complex topics and illustrating their impact on Nashville's public school students. And that's why we **bring people together** to talk through important topics, collectively problem solve, and build political will to do bold things.

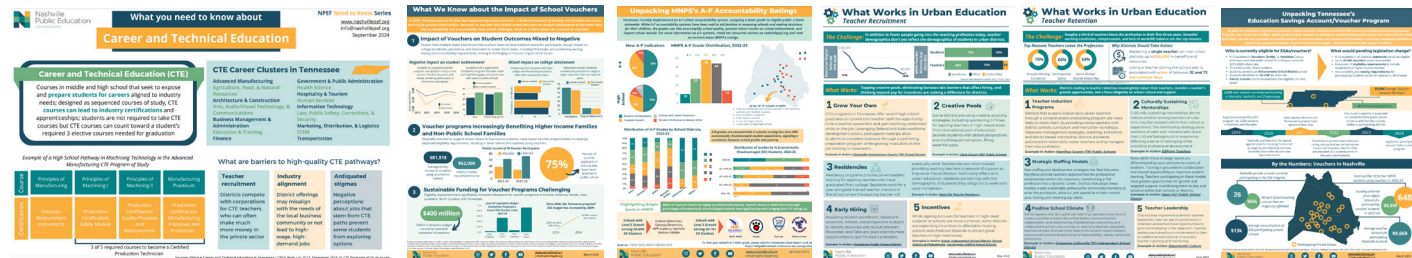
LEADERSHIP PUBLIC EDUCATION

In partnership with the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, NPEF co-facilitated Leadership Public Education, a 6-month leadership development experience to inform participants about important public education issues and build strong advocates for public schools.



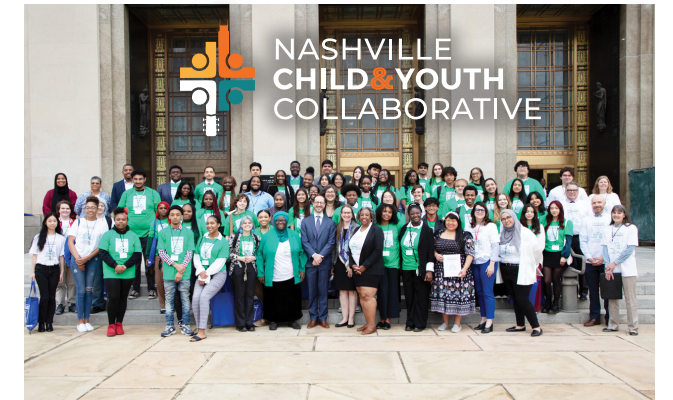
POLICY INFOGRAPHICS

Our infographics take a deeper dive into critical and timely topics to unpack education policy implications on Metro Nashville Public Schools. This year's topics include private school vouchers, the state's new accountability system, career and technical education, and teacher recruitment and retention. **SCAN THE QR CODE HERE TO FIND ALL OF NPEF'S INFOGRAPHICS!**



NASHVILLE CHILD AND YOUTH COLLABORATIVE

Along with 19 Nashville nonprofits, NPEF continued to support the Nashville Child and Youth Collaborative to increase investments in our young people. This year, we partnered with Council Member Zulfat Suara to host the inaugural Youth Day in Local Government, **bringing high schools to the Courthouse to learn about local policymaking and political engagement.**



LUNCH AND LEARNS

This year, NPEF launched a Lunch and Learn series to **facilitate informal conversations with community stakeholders.** We discussed the most pressing issues facing public schools and explored the education ecosystem with dozens of local leaders across the city.

SCAN THE QR CODE HERE TO SIGN UP TO HOST A LUNCH AND LEARN AT YOUR ORGANIZATION



WHY I TEACH

NPEF shined a light on public school teachers, **exploring their motivations and sparking community conversations on ensuring teaching is a sustainable career.** We released our second documentary, "Why I Teach," showing a day-in-the-life of three MNPS teachers and aiming to dispel myths about teaching while highlighting the incredible talent and dedication in our classrooms. **See our spotlight on "Why I Teach" on page 10!**



INVESTING IN WHAT WORKS



We believe that research and data should be driving our decisions about our public schools. That's why we design and **deliver research-based programs** for teachers and families and we strategically **partner with the district** to advise on key issues.



TEACHERPRENEUR

Teacherpreneur harnesses educator innovation by helping teachers build out ideas for making 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 implement their idea. 2024 first place winner Kathleen Shepherd's Family Literacy Kits have provided guided activities and bilingual books in students' home languages to promote reading together at home. Second place winner Ashley Giddens designed a program to provide academic supports to students in the juvenile court system, and third place winner Natalie Nikitas focused on improving professional learning for veteran teachers.



BLUE RIBBON TEACHER AWARDS

Since 2014, we have partnered with MNPS and Nashville's Agenda to **award exceptional teaching talent in our district**. Teachers are honored in the **categories of equity, leadership, and instruction**. This year, 25 remarkable educators received a \$2,500 award along with two round-trip airline tickets provided by Southwest Airlines at a celebration reception hosted by Vanderbilt University.



TECH GOES HOME

Tech Goes Home provides technology training and free laptops to MNPS families to help decrease the digital divide and support parent engagement. This year, our Tech Goes Home program served over 200 participants in 25 schools, providing training in 4 languages. We also launched Tech Goes Home: Teacher Edition, helping educators leverage technology in their classrooms.

See our spotlight on Tech Goes Home on page 11!



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL ANALYSIS

As a follow up to our three-year investment in school leadership, **NPEF partnered with the Tennessee Education Research Alliance to analyze assistant principal data** in the district and then share findings and recommendations on the role with Metro Nashville Public Schools.

SIFE TRANSITION FACILITATORS

NPEF supported an innovative program for our newly arrived students with interrupted formal education (SIFE) conceived by Addison Barrack, an inaugural Teacherpreneur winner. **SIFE Transition Facilitators provide additional supports and resources to SIFE students and their families** as they transition from the district's one-year SIFE program to a general education setting.

SPOTLIGHT ON WHY I TEACH

Have you ever wondered what a day in the life of a teacher really looks like?

What motivates Nashville's over 5,000 public school teachers to show up, inspire, and spark wonder for our students every day? This year, the Nashville Public Education Foundation set out to uncover what keeps educators excited to be in the classroom, what makes them feel most supported, and how they can be most understood and valued by the community.

WE CREATED A NEW DOCUMENTARY "WHY I TEACH"

following three Metro Nashville Public Schools teachers through a day in their lives.



The film shares the daily joys and challenges our teachers experience, explores the many roles and responsibilities they hold throughout the day, and highlights the passion,

talent, and expertise it takes to be a great teacher. The film features Taylor Edens, a high school chemistry teacher, who is constantly looking for ways to make science fun and connect chemistry lessons to students' interests and experiences; Graham Spencer, a middle school math teacher whose strong relationships with students help them push themselves to overcome challenges each day; and Celia Bowman-Jeffries, an elementary school teacher for multilingual learners committed to ensuring all her students have access to rigorous instruction and the supports they need to thrive.



NPEF partnered with Lipscomb University to premiere "Why I Teach" to a group of current and aspiring educators, education advocates, and community members seeking to understand more about teaching in our public schools. The premiere featured a panel of MNPS teachers and education experts representing district leadership, school leaders, education researchers, and higher education professionals discussing the sustainability of the teaching profession as it continues to evolve.



"I want to do something where I can make a difference in my community as part of what my job is, so teaching was the obvious choice."

GRAHAM SPENCER,
MATH TEACHER

SCAN HERE
to learn more about
"Why I Teach" and
watch the film!



SPOTLIGHT ON TECH GOES HOME



TECH GOES HOME
MNPS
NASHVILLE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Our Tech Goes Home program has expanded to reach more families and educators and increase digital literacy and access.

Access to technology has become a vital part of public education. Students use devices to complete homework and other learning activities, and families require online access to check their students' grades, attendance, and assignments, as well as to communicate with teachers. However, many families lack sufficient access to devices and internet connectivity – a gap known as the digital divide.

Based on a national model, NPEF's Tech Goes Home program

addresses the digital divide by providing technology training and free laptops to MNPS families.



NPEF's Tech Goes Home program launched in 2022 with programming designed specifically for Metro Nashville Public Schools families. After a successful pilot year, NPEF secured local, state, and federal grant dollars to begin scaling the program to make an even larger impact on Metro Schools families. To date, we have served over 200 participants in 25 schools.

Tech Goes Home participants are trained on basic technology skills and MNPS's learning management systems and receive a free Chromebook laptop at the end of the sessions. School-based staff, nonprofits, government organizations, and MNPS Learning Technology Specialists and Information Technology teachers have been vital partners in ensuring Tech Goes Home is reaching as many families as possible.



THIS YEAR, WE ALSO OFFERED A VERSION OF TECH GOES HOME JUST FOR EDUCATORS.

Teachers came together for a two-day training on integrating technology into their classrooms. They learned strategies for leveraging devices, apps, and other resources to promote student engagement, facilitate strong classroom management, and increase academic rigor. Each teacher received an iPad to support their instruction upon completing the program.

SCAN HERE
to learn more
about Tech Goes
Home's impact



CELEBRATING OUR 20TH PUBLIC SCHOOLS HALL OF FAME

On September 5, NPEF brought Nashvillians together in celebration of the great things happening in our public schools at our 20th annual Hall of Fame luncheon. We honored a beloved community leader and 22-year NPEF board member, two inspiring elementary school educators, one outstanding principal leading transformational growth, two nonprofits meeting the unique needs of children, youth, and families across Nashville, and three distinguished alumni demonstrating the incredible potential of Metro Nashville Public Schools graduates.

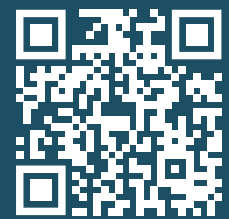
Over the past 20 years, NPEF's Hall of Fame has honored over 100 individuals and organizations, including 65 distinguished alumni, 23 Nelson C. Andrews Distinguished Service honorees, 14 non-profits and local organizations, 13 public school teachers, and 3 principals. We have awarded over \$200,000 in grants as part of our Inspiring Innovation, Educator, and Leader awards, and, because of the generosity of the Nashville community, have raised over \$5 million to support NPEF's work on behalf of Nashville's public schools.

SCAN HERE to watch highlights from our 20th Public Schools Hall of Fame celebration!



AT THIS YEAR'S EVENT, NPEF PRESIDENT & CEO KATIE COUR URGED ATTENDEES TO CONSIDER HOW THEY COULD BEST MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS USING THEIR INDIVIDUAL SKILLS, INTERESTS, TIME, AND NETWORKS.

NPEF's Take Action webpage highlights how you can find your role to help ensure all students thrive in school.



SCAN HERE to take action and find your role

“The Nashville Public Education Foundation knows just how important outstanding teachers are to our community. Thank you to NPEF for everything it does to celebrate and support the highly effective MNPS educators who work so hard to make sure Nashville's talented students are known, supported, cared for and on a path to success.”

DR. ADRIENNE BATTLE,
DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS,
METRO NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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

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Aleta & Byron Trauger

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Gail Williams

Mathew Wisner

Brenda Wynn

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

NPEF

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“The Nashville Public Education Foundation highlights what works in our public schools while driving improvement where improvement can be made. It does so with independence and with data, bringing rational thought to an important civic discussion that is too often beset by inaccuracy, confusion, and non-educational agendas.”

RALPH DAVIS,
NPEF BOARD CHAIR



RALPH



KATE



SHEILA



HARRY



ALFONZO



TONY

NPEF Team

Katie Cour, *President and CEO*

Colleen Gilligan, *Director of Strategic Initiatives*

Melinda Judd, *Senior Vice President of Development and Outreach*

Regina Riley, *Vice President of Operations*

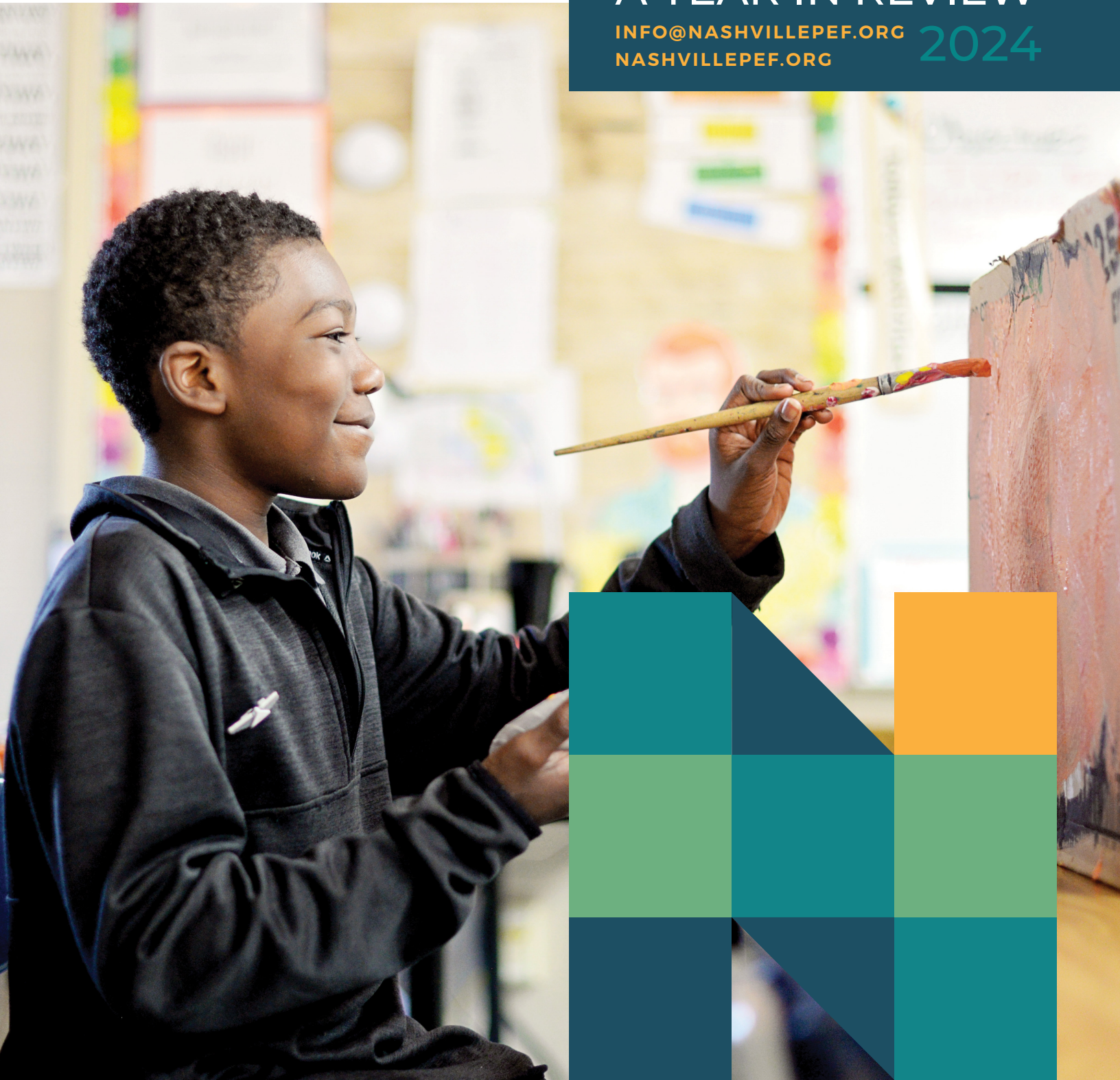
Tashaye Woods, *Director of Project Management*



A YEAR IN REVIEW

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2024



Help support our work to ensure **EVERY CHILD**
can thrive in our public schools **EVERY DAY.**

HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE SINCE 2002