



PENCIL

Public Education Needs Community
Involvement & Leadership



PENCIL (Public Education Needs Community Involvement and Leadership) links community resources to Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) to help young people achieve academic success and prepare for life.

PENCIL exists to create a world where MNPS students and teachers have equitable access to resources and opportunities, empowering students to succeed now and in the future. We do this by creating a community that respects the unique perspectives and experiences of all stakeholders through proactive listening, continuous learning, and tireless advocacy for every student.

As the boots-on-the-ground resource recruiter for MNPS, our work is guided by the district's

needs, is student-centric, and is achieved through community partnerships and tangible engagements. We have always worked closely with MNPS leaders to support the initiatives and programs that they determine necessary for student success. While we serve all MNPS students, PENCIL programs are of particular benefit to students experiencing socioeconomic hardship or living in underserved communities.

After more than four decades, PENCIL is known as the great connector having set the standard for effective partnerships, rewarding volunteer opportunities, and advocacy on behalf of MNPS and its students.

Linking community resources to Metro Nashville Public Schools to help young people achieve academic success and prepare for life.



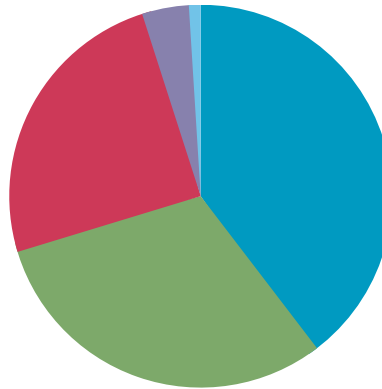
About Metro Nashville Public Schools

Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) is a district on the move. With 80,000+ students and nearly 4,900 classroom teachers in 158 schools and a budget of more than \$1 billion, it is one of the nation's largest school districts and one of Nashville's largest employers.

The global cultures and backgrounds that contribute to Nashville's vibrant and diverse character are reflected in the MNPS student population. Its students speak 129 languages and represent 145 countries, and the top five most-spoken, non-English languages are Spanish, Arabic, Kurdish, Somali, and Burmese. Yet only 27% of students are classified as having Limited English Proficiency – those who are active English learners.

Overseeing MNPS is the Metropolitan Nashville Board of Education, unique in that members are elected, rather than appointed. It consists of nine members, each representing one of the MNPS districts, plus two student members to ensure that constituency's voice is heard. In addition to the responsibilities of allocating resources and encouraging fiscal responsibility, the board oversees the hiring and managing the Director of Schools.

In 2022-2023, MNPS reported the following for student demographics:



- 40% Black/African American
- 31% Hispanic/Latino
- 25% White
- 4% Asian
- <1% American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander

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About Metro Nashville Public Schools

Dr. Adrienne Battle was named Director of Schools on March 13, 2020, just days after violent tornadoes devastated the city and immediately before the pandemic brought everything to a halt, including the widespread closure of MNPS. She successfully led the district through its recovery, meeting the educational as well as humanitarian needs of students and families, and co-chaired the task force to oversee a safe and equitable return to school. A Nashville native, Dr. Battle has served the district as teacher, principal, and community superintendent; and she is the first MNPS graduate to serve as Director of Schools.

Dr. Battle’s overriding theme for MNPS, “Every Student Known,” reflects the MNPS belief that developing the whole child – in and out of school – is critical to building a strong community.

The MNPS Signature Initiatives and Focused Outcomes define a path of success for every student with personalized education, measurable goals, and a clear, achievable path to success ensuring that every student should be seen, known, and cared for.

PENCIL works closely with MNPS and Dr. Battle to recruit the right resources to meet district goals.



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