

Supporting Nashville’s Schools

Exploring three of Nashville’s education-focused nonprofits

The Metropolitan Nashville Public School system (MNPS) serves more than 86,000 K-12 students each year in Davidson County, but they don’t do it alone. To meet the needs of its diverse student body, MNPS relies on many nonprofit and service-based organizations dedicated to boosting student success. **PENCIL**, **Alignment Nashville**, and **Nashville Public Education Foundation** are just three of the community’s education-focused organizations.

Alignment Nashville STRATEGIST

Convening for community change that impacts MNPS learners

CORE ISSUE ADDRESSED:

Population-level barriers that keep students from reaching their unique potential, from literacy and numeracy to social-emotional learning, teen sexual health, integrating international families, and more.



WHAT DOES ALIGNMENT NASHVILLE DO?

Alignment Nashville acts as an “initiative incubator,” connecting MNPS to the talent and expertise of Nashville’s business, healthcare, and nonprofit sectors to create game-changing initiatives that will build generations of thriving young Nashvillians.

HOW ALIGNMENT NASHVILLE WORKS:

Brings community experts and MNPS leaders together to identify societal challenges that affect student success (Explore Teams), engages community experts to strategize around those issues (Change Teams), and supports viable action plans to address those issues (Sustain Teams).

WHAT IS ACHIEVED AS A RESULT?

Long-term impact on MNPS students’ ability to succeed in school and beyond.

Nashville Public Education Foundation STRATEGIST & ADVOCATE

Advocating and innovating for positive change within the MNPS system

CORE ISSUE ADDRESSED:

Barriers to student success and inequities in Nashville’s public education system



WHAT DOES NPEF DO?

NPEF acts as a strategist and independent think tank for MNPS, providing transparent research, vital data analysis, and strategic recommendations for improvement at the system level. NPEF celebrates innovation, helps recruit and retain great teachers, and advocates for change in district policy to build schools where all students can thrive.

HOW NPEF WORKS:

Communicates successes in our schools to scale and accelerate solutions; acts as a critical friend to the district to promote strategies that eliminate inequities; informs the community about inequities and solutions; advocates for specific changes in policy and practice

WHAT IS ACHIEVED AS A RESULT?

Galvanized support around solutions that improve outcomes for all of our students and changes to inequitable policies and practices

PENCIL RESOURCE PROVIDER

Bridging the gaps in MNPS Classrooms.

CORE ISSUE ADDRESSED:

Lack of equitable access to resources in MNPS schools, including mentors, tutors, and essential supplies



WHAT DOES PENCIL DO?

PENCIL partners with businesses, community groups, and other organizations to bridge the resource gaps in MNPS that directly impact day-to-day learning in classrooms.

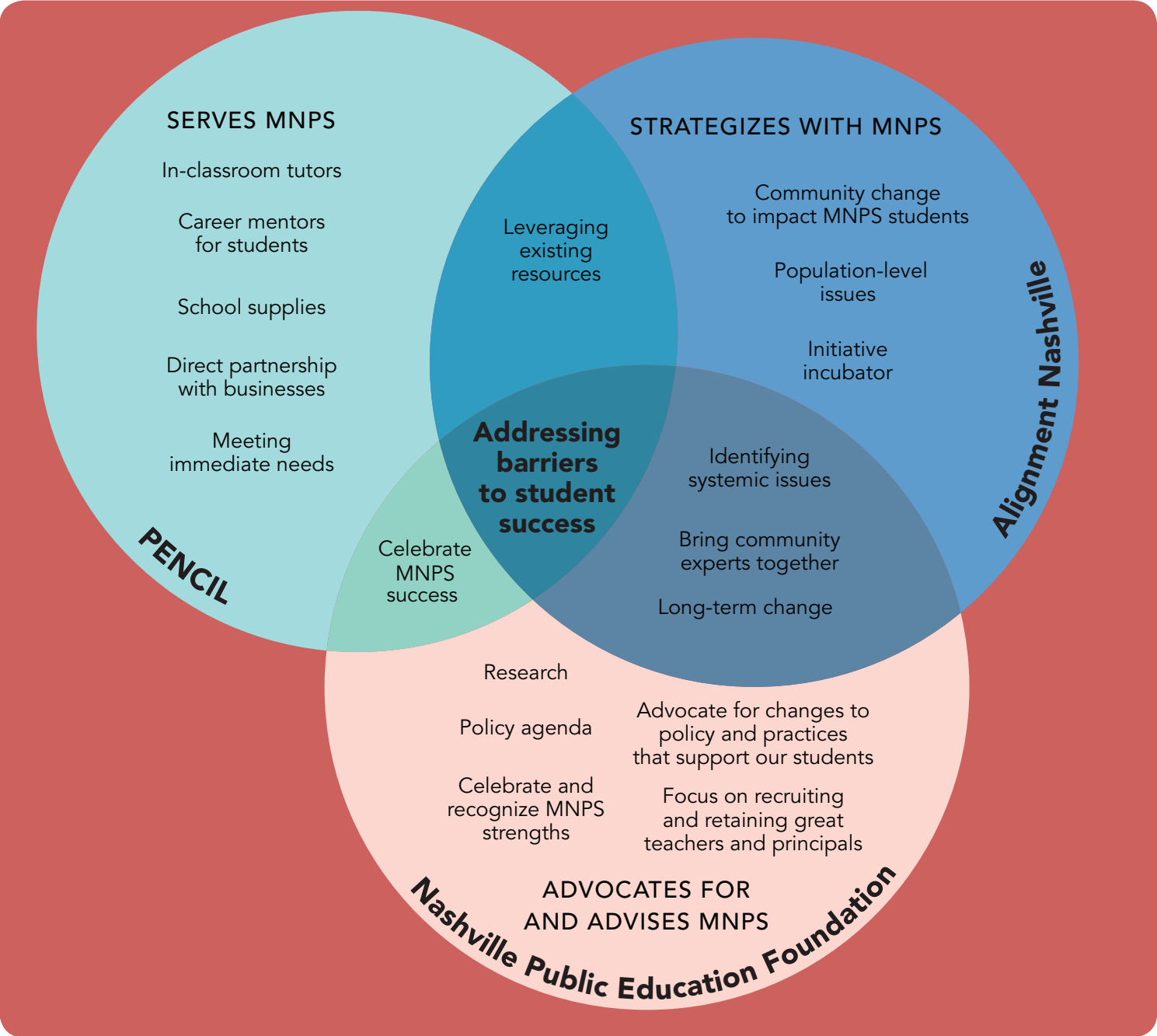
HOW PENCIL WORKS:

Recruits and matches volunteers to serve as tutors within classrooms; pairs professionals with students for career exploration and mentorship; collects and distributes essential school supplies; operates Family Resource Centers within schools; coordinates all volunteer background check services for MNPS.



WHAT IS ACHIEVED AS A RESULT?

Students engage with and learn from community members; schools and students benefit from long-term community relationships; all schools have the core supplies their teachers and students need; barriers to student attendance are removed.





























Working side by side for MNPS students.



How to Get Involved.

 **Businesses and Nonprofits**  **Individuals**

While individual and corporate dollars are always welcome (and needed) at all levels, community engagement in programs and initiatives can be a hands-on way to make a big impact, too.

ALIGNMENT NASHVILLE AlignmentNashville.org	NASHVILLE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION NashvillePEF.org	PENCIL PENCILforSchools.org
<div>  Invest financially</div> <div>  Join an A-team of cross-sector partners working on a specific issue</div> <div>  Respond to an A-team's Invitation to Participate (ITP), aligning resources needed from the community</div> <div>  Come to a quarterly Coffee Talk, designed to inform and gather community input</div>	<div>  Invest financially</div> <div> Partner on events that inform the community about challenges and solutions in our schools</div> <div>  Learn about best practices and research in public education through our materials and resources</div> <div> Attend community discussions and symposia to build knowledge around core issues facing our schools and students</div> <div>  Engage with NPEF's advocacy agenda to advocate for changes that improve our schools</div>	<div>  Invest financially</div> <div>  Participate in volunteer opportunities (ongoing and one-time)</div> <div>  Sponsor events that support teachers, students, and MNPS</div> <div>  Learn about volunteer opportunities</div> <div>  Donate items to the LP PENCIL Box</div> <div>  Contribute supplies or services to Family Resource Centers</div>