PENCIL

ONE COMMUNITY.
EVERY STUDENT.

$7 Million
Capital Campaign funding goal

40 Yrs
Partnership with Metro Nashville for a 40-yr lease with offset rent and utilities

3x
New 35,000 sq. ft. collaboration hub triples the current space

5x
Accommodates larger volunteer teams, increasing from 20 to 100+

Summer 2027
Groundbreaking in January and grand opening in Summer 2027



BRINGING NASHVILLE TOGETHER FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

Since 1982, Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) has relied on PENCIL as its primary civic convener — connecting business supply chains, community resources, and volunteers directly to public school classrooms. Today, PENCIL delivers more than $3 million in free teacher supplies annually through the DG PENCIL Box and manages 750+ corporate partnerships.

With our temporary Cockrill Bend lease ending in October 2027, we must secure a permanent home for PENCIL.

PENCIL is embarking on a landmark $7 million capital initiative — One Community. Every Student. — to restore the historic Robert E. Lillard schoolhouse in North Nashville into a permanent, 35,000-square-foot collaborative education hub. With this new home, we'll be able to make even more of an impact for public education in Nashville by expanding supply distribution, scaling volunteer mobilization, launching mobile supply logistics, and creating a shared collaboration anchor for partner education nonprofits.

"PENCIL's superpower is its ability to bring everyone together for the common goal of serving public education, whether that's connecting businesses to schools, collecting and distributing supplies to educators, or inspiring and engaging with local groups and volunteers. By redeveloping Lillard Elementary into a hub for PENCIL and other nonprofits supportive of public education, Nashville is leading the nation in building the public-private-nonprofit partnerships that are critical to tackling the challenges our city is facing."

- Matt Wiltshire, *President of the Pathway Housing Fund*

SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION

Corporate leaders, institutional foundations, private philanthropists, and community members are invited to join us in securing PENCIL's new home. Multi-year financial commitments will help fund the physical transformation of Nashville's public education support hub.

Beyond financial gifts, organizations and individuals can make high-impact investments through in-kind construction materials, professional trade services, corporate volunteer group commitments, or donating inventory for the DG PENCIL Box.

HOW YOUR INVESTMENT WORKS

ONE COMMUNITY.

Your capital gift triples our warehouse and volunteer center capacity, eliminating current space limits. The new Lillard hub allows us to host full corporate teams of 100+ volunteers (up from 20) and accept bulk inventory donations, turning business generosity into a direct investment in Nashville's educational supply chain.

EVERY STUDENT.

Your support puts classroom outcomes first. Expanding to 35,000 square feet powers our Mobile Box education resources distribution network, delivering millions in free supplies directly to educators and students across every zip code in Davidson County.

BRINGING NASHVILLE TOGETHER.

Your contribution breathes new life into a historic neighborhood schoolhouse, returning it to its original educational purpose. The facility is designed to offer flexible working and meeting space for partner education nonprofits to collaborate under one roof and multiply our collective civic impact.



"When our community comes together around public education, our schools thrive. PENCIL reactivating the historic Robert E. Lillard Elementary School amplifies our mission to ensure every student is known, valued, and supported. This new facility will serve as a collaborative hub for public education in Nashville, strengthening our entire school district for generations to come."

- Dr. Adrienne Battle
Superintendent of Metro Nashville Public Schools

TO LEARN MORE OR SCHEDULE A TOUR, CONTACT **Leah Susi. 615-812-4283** or **lsusi@pencil615.org**

To stay updated on our progress, follow us on social media.

FAQs

Why is PENCIL doing this now?
PENCIL has outgrown its current 11,000-square-foot facility, and our temporary Cockrill Bend warehouse lease reaches its firm expiration in October 2027. Severe space limitations currently force the DG PENCIL Box to turn away bulk supply donations and cap volunteer groups at just 20 people at a time, limiting community generosity when teachers and students need it most.

What's the total cost of this project?
The financial goal for the capital campaign is estimated at $7M to fund full structural renovations, loading dock construction, technology integration, and initial expanded operations.

The project is funded as a public-private partnership through multi-year commitments from corporate partners, institutional foundations, individual donors, and 100% financial participation from PENCIL's Board of Directors.

How is PENCIL working with Metro Nashville?
Metro Nashville and MNPS are vital civic partners who have executed a long-term, 40-year lease agreement to grant PENCIL use of the Lillard property. PENCIL is raising private philanthropic capital to fund the complete renovation of the building. Under this partnership, Metro offsets the rent obligations in recognition of our capital investment and our $3M+ in annual impact on MNPS schools.

Why the Robert E. Lillard Elementary School and North Nashville?
Located near major thoroughfares, the 35,000-square-foot Lillard facility provides the ideal central distribution launchpad to serve schools across Davidson County.

Robert E. Lillard was a trailblazing Nashville civil rights leader, firefighter, lawyer, and one of the first African American Metro Nashville Council members. Restoring this historic schoolhouse honors Lillard's lifetime of public service by returning the building to its original purpose — serving local educators, students, and our public school communities.

Will the building have a new name?
The overall property will permanently honor the legacy of Robert E. Lillard. However, key operational spaces inside the hub — such as the DG PENCIL Box eductor store, volunteer center, loading dock, and community collaboration areas — offer dedicated naming recognition opportunities for lead donors.

What's the timeline for this project?
The project timeline spans from 2026 through Summer 2027, beginning with early site access granted by Metro in 2026 for architectural planning. On-site renovation formally begins in January 2027, leading to a grand opening in Summer 2027 ahead of the 2027–2028 school year.

To learn more about PENCIL'S One Community. Every Student campaign or make a donation, **scan the QR Code:**

PENCIL
ONE COMMUNITY. EVERY STUDENT.
Bringing Nashville Together for Public Education

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onecommunityeverystudent.org