



News from the Communications Office of Metro Nashville Public Schools

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Transformations set for Nashville's Priority Schools

Metro Nashville Public Schools, LEAD Public Schools, Achievement School District collaborate to provide great schools for every public school student

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (March 1, 2012) –Metro Nashville Public Schools and the Achievement School District (ASD) today announced plans to quickly transform the lowest-performing public schools in Nashville with one school converting to a charter school managed by LEAD Public Schools. These "Priority Schools" rank in the bottom five percent in student achievement, according to Tennessee's new accountability system.

The Metro Schools Office of Innovation will accelerate the transformation of Bailey STEM Magnet Middle, Buena Vista Enhanced Option Elementary, Gra-Mar Middle, John Early Museum Magnet Middle, Napier Enhanced Option Elementary and Robert Churchwell Museum Magnet Elementary schools into higher performing schools.

The Office of Innovation, formed in July 2011 under the leadership of Alan Coverstone, uses staff development, innovative programs and additional resources to develop diverse and personalized programs of instruction to meet the needs of students at each school. The ASD supports this approach, which is designed to have the greatest collective impact on student achievement. Tribal Education Group, which has earned an international reputation for successful school turnarounds over the past decade, is consulting in the turnaround process in these and 27 more district schools.

"Today's announcement reflects the state's confidence in Metro Schools' strategy to turnaround Priority status schools," said Jesse Register, director of Metro Nashville Public Schools. "We are committed to improving performance in these schools and we expect rapid gains in student achievement."

Metro Schools, LEAD and the ASD will collaborate to ensure a rapid and sustainable turnaround at another Priority School, Brick Church Middle. Since 2010, LEAD and Metro Schools have worked together successfully to increase student performance at Cameron Middle School as it converts to Cameron College Prep, a charter school operated by LEAD. Over the next four years, Brick Church Middle will also convert, one grade at a time, to a new LEAD charter school, Brick Church College Prep.

"Today is about students. The collaboration between LEAD Public Schools, Metro Nashville Public Schools and the Achievement School District will expand transformational educational opportunities for students in Nashville. With the record of success that LEAD has already had with students here in Nashville, we are excited to work with LEAD and Metro to expand quality options to serve more students in the ASD," said Achievement School District Superintendent Chris Barbic.

A goal is for Brick Church to rise into the state's top 25 percent of schools in the next five years, dramatically changing future opportunities for children and families.

"LEAD Public Schools is proud to partner with Metro Schools to open a new conversion school at Brick Church," said Jeremy Kane, founder and CEO of LEAD Public Schools. "The partnership that we have forged with MNPS is the first of its kind and is driving some of the most exciting gains for students and families in Nashville. To build on our work at Cameron and use our partnership and the lessons we've learned there to transform Brick Church is exciting."

"We are working hard to ensure more children in Nashville are prepared for college, career and life," said Alan Coverstone, executive director of the Metro Schools Office of Innovation. "In the past, we have spent too much time pointing fingers when we weren't achieving. Now, we're focused on how can we bring all the people who have something to offer into the fold and we are working together to provide what students need to succeed."

About Metro Nashville Public Schools

The 2012-13 school year begins Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2012 for Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools. The district serves more than 79,000 students with the goal of being the first choice for families in Nashville and Davidson County. The governing body for MNPS is the Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Board of Public Education, a nine-member elected group. For more information, please visit www.mnps.org.

About LEAD Public Schools

LEAD Public Schools, the state's first charter management organization, first opened its doors as LEAD Academy 5 years ago as a fifth and sixth grade program. LEAD Public Schools now operates three campuses: LEAD Academy Middle School, LEAD Academy High School, and the state's first conversion Cameron College Prep. LEAD Public Schools works to transform the educational expectations of the Nashville community promising to do "**Whatever It Takes**" to graduate 100% of its 650 students prepared for acceptance to a four-year college or university.

About the ASD

The Achievement School District is the state-wide effort to create a system of schools that perform among the top 25 percent in the state. Rethinking the term "district," the ASD will work as school operator and authorizer to increase transformational educational opportunities for students currently attending schools performing in the bottom 5 percent. Read more at www.achievementschooldistrict.org, become a fan of Achievement at www.facebook.com/tnasd and follow Achievement @tn_asd on Twitter.

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