



February 6, 2020

Dr. Adrienne Battle
Interim Director of Schools
Metro Nashville Public Schools
2601 Bransford Avenue
Nashville, TN 37204

Dr. Battle:

Thank you for the valuable resources you provided in last year's budget for Trauma-Informed Schools and the Student Support Services Department. Students and staff throughout the district benefit tremendously from the district's investment in these programs. We were proud to be among a group of local foundations who supported match funding for the Trauma-Informed Schools Coordinator last year. We requested that MNPS include funding for the Coordinator position in this upcoming year's operating budget.

As you know, MNPS strives to reduce the number of disciplinary incidents throughout the district. The presence of trauma-informed programming helps the district meet this goal in a measurable way, while receiving well-deserved national attention. MNPS' success with trauma-informed programming improved classroom culture, school attendance, and provided teachers with additional strategies to handle behaviors for all students.

While we recognize the difficulty of creating the district's budget, we urge you to keep this positive momentum going by fully funding the Trauma-Informed Schools initiative in the 2020-2021 MNPS Budget. This work not only benefits children who have experienced trauma, but it benefits all students by creating strong, supportive and nurturing relationships. It also provides our community's students with the social and emotional skills that will support their success as children and adults.

We appreciate the district's ongoing leadership with this important work, and we ask that you prioritize maintaining current staffing levels to preserve the valuable gains made across the district this year. If we can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

Kristen Keely-Dinger, LAPSW
President and CEO

CC: MNPS School Board
Hank Clay, Chief of Staff