

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Innovation & Work-Based Learning

Welcome to the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce's 30th Annual Education Report. For three decades, education has been a top priority for the Chamber and the business community. A consistent part of the business community's commitment over these decades has been to produce the Education Report, a community perspective on opportunities and challenges facing Metro Nashville Public Schools.

The Education Report Committee chose innovation through work-based learning (WBL) as its special topic this year. During the 2021-22 school year, MNPS piloted work- based learning as a paid, for-credit opportunity for students. After a successful launch, the program expanded to all high schools across the district, and more than 120 positions were filled in the first two years of implementation. Through extensive research, conversations, and deliberations, two workgroups – Coordination & Communication and Student Access – propose the following recommendations and considerations to MNPS to assist in growing and scaling work-based learning across the district.



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RECOMMENDATIONS

Refine and communicate the value proposition for students, employers, and parents/guardians to align expectations and showcase the opportunities of work-based learning.

Create a centralized mechanism to better support coordination and communication between students, employers, and schools.

Create a mechanism to identify what supports students need to be successful in work-based learning and identify how to allocate those resources equitably.

Revisit policies to expand work-based learning opportunities to all students who are interested.

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2022 EDUCATION REPORT COMMITTEE

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