

BETTER TOGETHER



METRO
NASHVILLE
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS



Nashville State
Community College

BETTER TOGETHER is a joint venture launched in early 2020 by Dr. Adrienne Battle, Director of Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS), and Dr. Shanna L. Jackson, President of Nashville State Community College (NSCC), to help more MNPS graduates prepare for, attend and complete college.

EARLY GOALS

The overarching goals for the joint venture are to expand college access, to boost college persistence and completion, and to significantly improve student outcomes for both systems – with a particular focus on closing all achievement, equity and opportunity gaps to expand student opportunities and to build our regional workforce.

EXPAND COLLEGE ACCESS

- Increase the number of MNPS students enrolling in college.
- Increase the number of MNPS students applying to and enrolling at NSCC.
- Increase the number of MNPS students maintaining Tennessee Promise eligibility and completing FAFSA.
- Decrease the number of MNPS graduates needing remedial courses.

BOOST COLLEGE PERSISTENCE AND COMPLETION

- Increase the retention of first-time, full-time students at NSCC - and decrease the retention gap between students of color and white students.
- Decrease the number of first-time, full-time NSCC students not earning credit hours during the first semester - and decrease the gap between students of color and white students.
- Increase the number of MNPS students obtaining a credential or degree.



When it comes to student success and workforce development, we see MNPS and Nashville State as one institution with one purpose. Our MNPS graduates attend Nashville State more than any other college. Our institutions must be united in helping all of them succeed.

Dr. Adrienne Battle, Director, Metro Nashville Public Schools



By working together, we are creating a longer runway for students to build the skills and confidence they need to attend and complete college, which is still the strongest ladder to greater economic and social mobility and success.

Dr. Shanna L. Jackson, President, Nashville State Community College

KEY INITIATIVES TO DATE

Additional strategic partners have been brought aboard and several key Better Together initiatives are already underway to help address these goals:

EXPANDED DUAL ENROLLMENT

MNPS and NSCC are working together to enroll even more MNPS students in dual enrollment courses. Dual enrollment offers MNPS students college-level academics, early college credit, and a potential industry credential. This early college experience also helps demystify college to help increase enrollment and retention.

SHARED DATA DASHBOARD & GOAL-SETTING

Working with tnAchieves, Better Together has constructed a shared data dashboard to track, monitor and utilize key information and milestone metrics about each MNPS student's journey to and through Nashville State. Adding to the partnership, SCORE has supported on overall visioning, goal-setting, and project management.

TARGETED STUDENT SUPPORT & INTERVENTIONS

Using the Shared Dashboard, the partners target specific reminders and interventions to encourage and assist students as they approach deadlines or face questions and hurdles during the college-going process.

BRIGHTPATH TUTORING AND MENTORING

In addition to the volunteer mentoring tnAchieves provides all Tennessee Promise-eligible students, Better Together is also working with BrightPath to provide MNPS high school students and recent graduates with free, one-on-one virtual tutoring and mentoring. Founded by recent Vanderbilt University graduates, BrightPath is helping prepare the students academically and supporting them individually during and after the transition to college.

STUDENT SUMMER SUCCESS COURSE

Nashville State's Student Summer Success Course, conducted in partnership with tnAchieves, offers incoming first-year students an immersive college summer experience to help them build the skills they need to be successful as a college student.

NASHVILLE GRAD

With the support of the Mayor's office, Metro Council, and community partners, Nashville GRAD aims to remove the non-academic barriers to college retention and completion, the Nashville GRAD program offers NSCC students direct financial assistance and wraparound supports, including money for textbooks and transportation, a laptop computer, and direct advising and career development support.

METRO NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS +
NASHVILLE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE:



By working together to better align high school-to-college-to-career pathways and to increase the number of MNPS students who are enrolling in and completing a college degree or credential, MNPS and Nashville State are proving they are indeed, Better Together, in meeting the needs of Nashville's growing economy and in preparing more students for success in college, career, and life.