

# Early Postsecondary Opportunities in Nashville

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# Presenters

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# Local Context

# Tennessee Policy Landscape



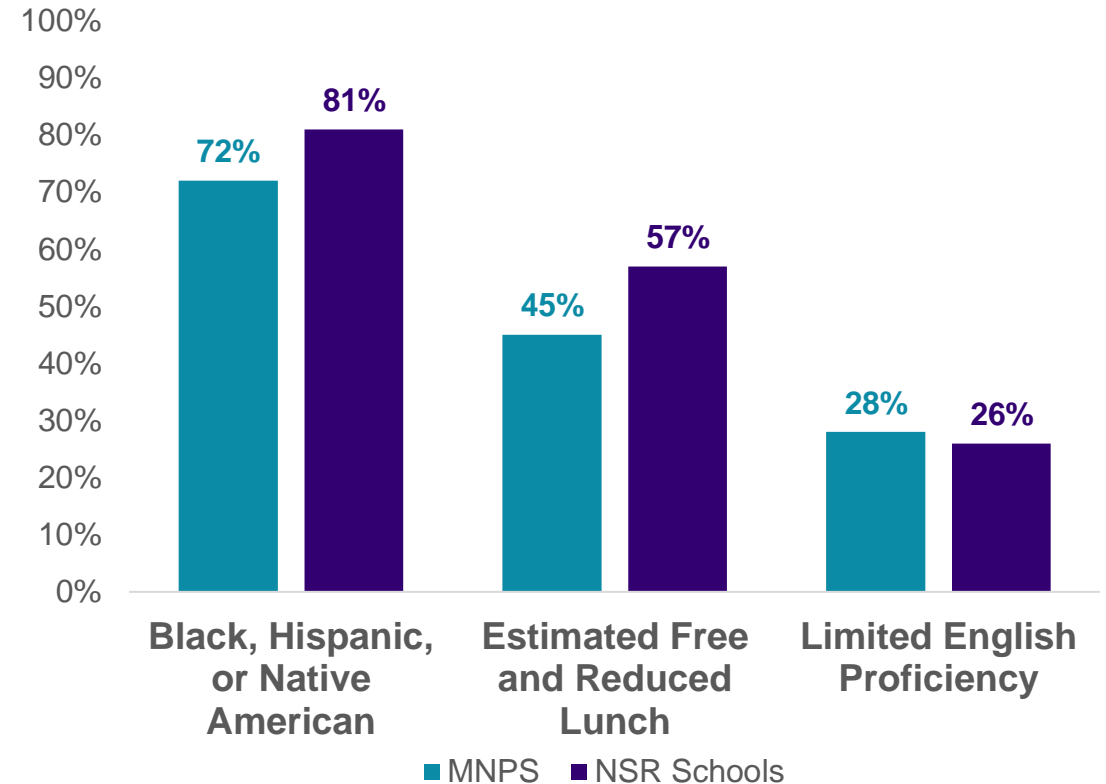
- Array of possible Early Post-Secondary Opportunities (EPSOs)
- Ready Graduate indicator part of state accountability
- ACT and EPSOs are primary ways students are counted as Ready Graduates

# Tuition Equity in Tennessee

- Undocumented students are ineligible for the Tennessee Dual Enrollment Grant and are charged out-of-state tuition at Tennessee community colleges
- Tennessee has the highest out-of-state tuition in the nation:
  - \$4,372 in-state at Nashville State
  - \$17,188 out-of-state at Nashville State
- MNPS serves a large population of undocumented students and Nashville has had explosive growth in New American populations

# New Skills Ready Schools

- Focused on four zoned high schools in the Academies of Nashville:
  - John Overton
  - Maplewood
  - Pearl-Cohn
  - Whites Creek
- Unique culture in each school
- Large student population size differences



Data Source: MNPS Open Data Portal  
Free and Reduced Lunch estimated using 1.5 multiplier on Economically Disadvantaged student population

# EPSOs in Nashville

# EPSOs and Career Pathways in MNPS

- Academies of Nashville career academies offered wall-to-wall; 89% of pathways are CTE programs of study
- EPSOs embedded within pathway course sequences and offered as electives
  - AP
  - Local Dual Credit
  - Dual Enrollment
- Some schools are IB or Cambridge schools with embedded EPSOs and pathways



# Early College at Whites Creek

- Better Together partnership
- Early College funded initially by PNC Bank
  - Peer mentoring, summer programming, and workshop to support
- College and Career Readiness Coach provides key advising and infrastructure support (NSR-funded role)
- Currently offered to 9-11<sup>th</sup> graders; pathway-agnostic (A.A. in General Studies)
- Students saw high academic growth on state assessments
- Third early college site will launch in 2024-25 at Glenclyff High School (Existing Early College on campus at NSCC)

# Faculty Training to Support Student Success

- High school teachers and community college faculty who teach dual enrollment courses learning together
- Focused on strategies to successfully engage high school students and ensure rigor required for postsecondary
- Led by Nashville State Community College
- Efforts to link dual enrollment faculty to Deans and faculty at the community college
- Identification of current high school faculty who can teach dual enrollment

# TCAT Dual Enrollment

- TCAT dual enrollment was not previously offered in MNPS
- Opportunity to pilot possible solution to instructor hiring for high-wage fields used in other districts
- No academic requirements to enroll and no out-of-state tuition
- Students earn clock hours and can sit for Industry Certifications when eligible (two EPSOs in one course)

# Undocumented Student Funding

- Our guiding team allocated funds to support undocumented students taking TCAT dual enrollment; TCAT matched 1:1
- Braided funding:
  - Tennessee Board of Regents Grant supporting English Learners
  - GEAR UP Nashville
  - Scarlett Family Foundation
- Goal to create a proof point for sustainable funding in the future

# Successes

- Changes to Tennessee Dual Enrollment grant expanded access for students who are eligible
  - Due to changes piloted at MNPS and NSCC
- New Skills high schools have tripled the number of students who have completed dual enrollment courses with a passing grade (as of 2022-23 academic year)
  - Nashville State bucked statewide enrollment decline for Fall 2022, largely driven by dual enrollment
- TCAT dual enrollment was established for the first time in MNPS last year and about 400 students are currently enrolled
- Data sharing agreement has been finalized between MNPS and NSCC

# What We're Learning

- Undocumented student financing a key equity issue; requires local and/or state policy change with support from philanthropy
- Navigating challenges to ensure qualified instructors are recruited, retained, and supported is complex
  - Compensation and benefits
  - Licensure
- Advising and coordination are key functions that require human capacity
- We have more to learn on local funding models to support dual enrollment
- Changing mindsets about which EPSOs are perceived as valuable takes time

# Policy Change Resources

## 2023 Policy Scan



## *Point of Departure* Report



# Contact Us

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