

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE PUBLIC
SCHOOLS IN SUPPORT OF
FOCUSING ON CHILDREN'S' SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL LEARNING, AND ACADEMICS
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a global pandemic that spreads through close contact among individuals; and

WHEREAS, beginning on March 12, 2020, Governor Bill Lee declared Tennessee to be in a state of emergency until June 30, 2020, pursuant to Executive Orders 14 and 36, due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, beginning on March 16, 2020, Tennessee schools were closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, in response to requests made by Governor Bill Lee that they close to combat the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Tennessee General Assembly approved the cancellation of state standardized testing for the 2019-2020 school year, due to the statewide closure of schools and subsequent lack of standardized instruction being delivered to students; and

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2020 the Tennessee State Board of Education approved Emergency Rule 0520-02-01-.01, which, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, removed the requirement for overall effectiveness scores for educators for the 2019-2020, prohibited any adverse action taken against a teacher, administrator, school or LEA, based, in whole or in part, on student achievement, student performance, or student growth data generated from the Tennessee comprehensive assessment program tests administered in the 2019-2020 school year ("hold harmless"); and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2020, the Tennessee State Board of Education approved Emergency Rule 0520-01-17-.01, which requires Tennessee school districts to provide students in grades one (1) through twelve (12) access to six and one half (6 1/2) hours of instructional time each school day during the 2020-2021 school year, even if there are school closures or disruptions related to outbreaks of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, by Executive Order 50 signed by Governor Bill Lee on June 29, 2020, the state of Tennessee is to remain in a state of emergency until at least August 29, 2020 and COVID-19 continues to spread at a rapid rate in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to State Board Emergency Rule 0520-01-17-.01, Tennessee school districts are required to each create and implement their own plans to facilitate continuous learning in light of the continued spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee school districts will be implementing different plans for learning from county to county across the state for the 2020-2021, based upon the needs of their students

and COVID-19 outbreaks in each county; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee students will likely face significant academic and behavioral regression upon returning to school, having lost approximately two (2) months of standard instruction and attendance due to the extended closure; and

WHEREAS, students spent approximately (5) consecutive months out of school between the time the 2019-2020 school year unexpectedly ended and the start of the 2020-2021 school year began in August; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee school districts will be focused not only on student growth and safety, but also on recoupment of academic and social and emotional skills lost during the extended closure.

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools began the school year virtually and to address the social, emotional needs of their students focused the first weeks of instruction on meeting those needs.

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools anticipates the possibility of being virtual for extended periods of time throughout the 2020 – 2021 school year. Given the unique space that this school year will occupy, MNPS wants the focus to be on the social/emotional, and academic needs of their students to accelerate outcomes and not on the testing process.

WHEREAS, MNPS recognizes the herculean effort of its teachers – and teachers across the state – in teaching in a virtual space and wants teachers, administrators, schools, and the LEA to focus on their craft and the needs of students.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved unanimously by all of the Board Members on the 25th day of August, 2020 that Board of Education for Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

Supports and respectfully requests that for the 2020 – 2021 school year, that the moratorium on state standardized testing continues, that students, teachers, administrators, schools, and LEAs continue to be held harmless on student achievement, student performance, or student growth data generated from the Tennessee comprehensive assessment program tests administered in the 2020-2021 school year. These measures are necessary to focus on recoupment of students' academic and social/emotional skills lost during the extended school closure and to allow teachers and administrators to focus on the students' needs during this unprecedented time.