

COMMUNITY ACHIEVES A-TEAM

Action Report 2020 - 2021

The mission of Community Achieves is to remove barriers to learning by identifying needs, cultivating relationships, and aligning supports to ensure school communities thrive. The results focused partnership between parents, the community, and schools will personalize learning for students and lead to stronger families and healthier communities. The Community Achieves A-Team was convened to support this important work.

HIGHLIGHT: Host a celebration to recognize work of the CA Coordinators.

Throughout the year, the Alignment Team discussed ideas for the best way to celebrate the Community Achieves Coordinating positions in MNPS. Although there were some limitations, the team decided on a small celebration that would highlight the incredible work of the coordinators during recovery from the tornadoes of March 2020 and their hard work during the COVID-19 pandemic. The team plans to have a much larger celebration in 2021.

HIGHLIGHT: Act as a thought partner for the Parent Advisory Council (PAC).

The Community Achieves Alignment Team invited newly elected PAC leaders to collaborate on the PAC Mission and Vision and bylaws to be more inclusive and representative of our diverse MNPS families..

Additionally, the team was able to support PAC and the MNPS Family Engagement Department by creating an outline that can be used for training new parents and strategies for connecting with parents who have not traditionally been involved with PAC.

HIGHLIGHT: Provide input on the MNPS Partnership Handbook before launch.

The Partnership Handbook was released in Spring 2021 with feedback from the A-Team to outline best practices for how community partners can get involved in MNPS.

HIGHLIGHT: Define what “proactive family engagement” really means.

By reviewing the existing MNPS Family Engagement policies as well as landscape research study, the A-Team was able to better understand the authentic needs of parents and families and how to proactively deliver solutions and support. These ideas were incorporated through policy suggestions.

HIGHLIGHT: Reimagine the school-based resource centers for families.

The A-Team played an important role in discussing and envisioning how resource centers for families could better support students and families in addressing their needs.

HIGHLIGHT: Provide continuous support for Community Achieves Impact Teams.

Impact Teams are an integral part of the community school strategy. They provide structure for collaborative leadership at the school level and are comprised of school leaders, parents, students, community partners, and other stakeholders to identify needs and provide input on the School Improvement Plan (SIP), the strategic plan for partnerships, school programming and resources, etc. As an ongoing engine of support and innovation, the A-Team created additional tools to support implementation quality & capture feedback from participants. The A-Team also held listening sessions with two schools to hear about their challenges & successes and generate ideas for increased support!

COMMUNITY ACHIEVES A-TEAM

Action Report 2020 - 2021

The Community Achieves A-Team is a Sustain Team facilitated by Alignment Nashville. Alignment Nashville mobilizes strategic partners to challenge and address systemic barriers in order to equitably impact the growth, development and academic achievement of each student in Metro Nashville Public Schools.

HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY ACHIEVES A-TEAM

The Community Achieves A-Team is one of Alignment Nashville's *Sustain Teams*, which works to sustain existing collaborative initiatives by providing mechanisms for ongoing support and continuous improvement.

The Community Achieves A-Team first came together in 2017 around a call to action to expand Community Achieves, across the district. The team brought together diverse partners to work on expanding resources and services to the students and families that need them most. After reviewing school and community level data, the A-Team provided input on which new schools should be added to Community Achieves.

In 2018, the A-Team received a \$150,000 grant from the Together for Students Initiative, created by the alignment of three national nonprofit youth-serving organizations, to recognize 10 communities throughout the US on plans they have initiated to bring key stakeholders, including students and families, together to support the needs of local students. This grant helped to fund sessions training coordinating positions on how to solicit and incorporate students voice, in-depth strategic planning sessions, and learning trips across the state to learn best practices and connect with Community School practitioners across Tennessee.

The A-Team has continued to evolve to support the needs of Community Achieves within Metro Nashville Public Schools.

ALIGNMENT TEAM MEMBERS AS OF AUGUST 2021

Alignment Team Co-Chairs:

Alison McArthur, Metro Nashville Public Schools

Tom Ward, Oasis Center, Retired

Alignment Team Members:

Kawema, Communities in Schools

Veronica Chambers, Big Brothers, Big Sisters

Karissa Deiter, Oasis Center

Vanessa Helbig Johnson, YWCA Nashville & Middle Tennessee

Kay Higgs, STARS Nashville

Tiffany Hodge, NAZA

Lyn Hoyt, Tennessee Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools

Charity Ingersoll, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Michael McSurdy, Family & Children's Service

Mariana Merritt, Metro Nashville Public Schools

Ruth Morales-Renta, Family & Children's Service

Laura Nichols, Metro Nashville Public Schools

Emily Nourse, Family & Children's Service

Tiffany Rhodes, Robert Churchwell Elementary

Michele Sheriff, MNEA

Whitney Slovick, Metro Nashville Public Schools

Carly Southworth, Family & Children's Service

Bailey Tidwell, PENCIL

Atlee Tyree, Haywood Elementary

Janelle Wommer, United4Hope