

# MUSIC CITY SEL CONFERENCE A-TEAM

## Action Report 2021

### About Music City SEL Conference

The **11th annual Music City Social Emotional Learning Conference** brought together educators, youth-serving professionals, and other community leaders & stakeholders to share skills, tools, and resources for creating learning environments that elevate whole-child wellness and empower all members of a community to thrive. This unique **VIRTUAL** conference is designed and led *BY practitioners FOR practitioners of social-emotional learning*.


#### The 2021 Music City SEL Virtual Conference featured:

- “Strategies for Adult Self-Care” Pre-Conference Institute:**  
Nationally recognized educator Dr. Doug Granier offered practical tools for educators and youth-serving professionals to better manage compassionate self-care. Participants broke into smaller groups based on the tier or population they serve and had time and guidance to develop an actionable plan.
- “Maintaining a Healthy Work Culture During Times of Change” Keynote Address:**  
Hannah Ubl has devoted her career to a fresh approach to the standard (and outdated) workplace narrative. Not afraid to ask the hard questions, she commits to guide attendees toward self-inquiry to help them become better leaders, better managers, and better colleagues.
- “What Young People Need to Thrive” Student Panel:**  
A facilitated conversation with students from Metro Nashville Public Schools and neighboring school districts in Middle Tennessee provided illuminating insights into how young people feel returning to school in-person and what types of supports they need to be successful post-COVID.


### Music City SEL Conference Goals

Although past in-person events have been attended by more than 700 people, this year's all-virtual event experienced several challenges to recruiting participants. COVID-19, as well as critical programs like *Promising Scholars* in MNPS, deterred large number of participants from the event. Despite this, the A-Team still accomplished the following immediate goals:

#### Attract new and diverse attendees to the conference.

-  Approximately **45%** of the attendees of the 2021 conference were first-time attendees. Although the team was unable to meet its goal of 700 participants, the conference drew **220** attendees, including:
  - 102 MNPS faculty & staff
  - 119 external educators & professionals
  - 21 US States & Canadian Territories
  - 59 youth & community-serving organizations

#### Offer high-quality workshops & conference content.

-  Conference attendees were asked to provide feedback on the **40+** workshops and keynotes offered during the event using a five-point scale. Averages of session survey feedback revealed that all sessions exceeded expectations on all metrics:
  - Speaker Knowledgeability: **4.93 / 5**
  - Session Engagement: **4.68 / 5**
  - Session Expectations: **4.70 / 5**
  - Intent to Use Information: **4.79 / 5**
 The A-Team plans to administer a 6-month follow-up survey to better understand how tools gained at the conference are implemented.

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“ THE MUSIC CITY SEL CONFERENCE HAS GROWN SO MUCH SINCE ITS HUMBLE BEGINNINGS IN 2010. WE HAVE BROUGHT TOGETHER INCREDIBLE SPEAKERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO OFFER AMAZING CONTENT THAT HAS EMPOWERED AND INSPIRED EDUCATORS AND OTHERS WHO SERVE YOUTH IN COMMUNITIES, BIG AND SMALL. OVER ITS ELEVEN YEAR HISTORY, THE CONFERENCE HAS BEEN ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 5000 LEADERS FROM HERE AND ABROAD. IT'S AN HONOR FOR NASHVILLE TO BE RECOGNIZED AT THE FOREFRONT OF SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING, HAVING DEMONSTRATED AN INCREDIBLE, LASTING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN OF SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF STUDENTS. ”

-Kyla Krengel, Co-Chair, Music City SEL Conference A-Team

### About the Music City SEL Conference A-Team

Alignment Nashville mobilizes strategic partners to challenge and address systemic barriers in order to equitably impact the growth, development and academic achievement of each Metro Nashville Public Schools student. We convene three types of Alignment Teams (A-Teams) structured around academic grade levels, special populations, and emerging needs.

The Music City SEL Conference A-Team formed in 2019 as a newly created *Sustain Team*, geared toward sustaining a successful collaborative initiative by providing mechanisms for ongoing support and continuous improvement

The team was born from the former Behavioral Health/SEL Alignment Team which initiated and grew the conference in 2010.

### 2021 Music City SEL Conference A-Team Members

#### Alignment Team Co-Chairs:

Kyla Krengel, Metro Nashville Public Schools  
Rodger Dinwiddie, STARS Nashville

#### Alignment Team Members:

Charity Ingersoll, Vanderbilt Behavioral Health  
Tracy Glascoe, Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
Kathy Gracey, Vanderbilt Behavioral Health  
Dr. Doug Granier, Vanderbilt University  
Eric Johnson, STARS Nashville  
Dr. Michel Sanchez, Metro Nashville Public Schools  
Jennifer Stanchfield, Experiential Tools

#### Alignment Team Staff:

Glen Biggs, A-Team Manager, Alignment Nashville  
Lwam Tecleab, A-Team Data Manager, Alignment Nashville  
Justin Sweatman-Weaver, Events Manager, Alignment Nashville

Special thanks to these sponsors and top-tier exhibitors who helped make the conference possible:

Metro Nashville Public Schools | [mnps.org](https://mnps.org)

NaliniKIDS | [nalinikids.org](https://nalinikids.org)

QuaverEd | [quavered.com](https://quavered.com)

STARS Nashville | [starsnashville.org](https://starsnashville.org)

Vanderbilt Behavioral Health | [vanderbilthealth.com](https://vanderbilthealth.com)

xSEL Lab | [xsel-labs.com](https://xsel-labs.com)