2019 Summer Regional Meetings

#WeAreThePeopleTN
@ConexionEd
@GiniPupo
Overview of today’s agenda

• Data Walk – how are we doing?
• Who is the Tennessee Educational Equity Coalition?
• Key policy issues in 2019
• Regional Issues Workshop & Strategy Session
• Next Steps

#WeAreThePeopleTN
Who We Are

We are the people we've been waiting for

we are
THE TENNESSEE EDUCATIONAL EQUITY COALITION
Who We Are

- Formed in spring 2015
- Network of over 3000 advocates and allies
- Intentional focus on students of color, and English Learners and those living in poverty
- Advocacy centered on 4 key policy priorities
- Regional Presence across the State

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**What We Do**

**Convene:** Regional meetings, connecting and building networks

**Inform:** We develop & share data, research and policy recommendations on our 4 priorities

**Advocate:** Statewide initiatives, subgrants, Day on the Hill, direct dialogue with decision-makers & policymakers

**Lead:** The Mosaic Fellowship & Generation Lead

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Our 4 Policy Priorities

Priority 1: Excellent Teachers and Leaders for Every Child
Priority 2: Strong Accountability Systems
Priority 3: Appropriate and Equitable Resources
Priority 4: Successful Outcomes in Access and Completion

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2019-20 Equity and Excellence Grants

• Centro Hispano de East TN (Knoxville)
• HOLA of Lakeway (Morristown)
• EL Teacher Leadership Fellowship – MNPS – (Nashville)
• Memphis Restorative Justice Coalition (Memphis)
• Oasis Center (Nashville)
• Tennessee Educators of Color Alliance (Statewide)
• Unifi-Ed (Chattanooga)
• Volunteer State Seal of Biliteracy (Statewide)

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Leadership Development

The Mosaic Fellowship

Meet Nashville’s Next Leaders

We’re excited to launch the inaugural cohort of Generation Lead, a 10-month program for young emerging leaders in Nashville. Generation Lead consists of 12 college students who are ready for the next step in their leadership journey. Through this program, Generation Leaders will expand their sense of identity, deepen their social and civic awareness and learn to amplify their voice through leadership, engagement, advocacy and development.

Linda Williams
Middle Tennessee State University
Major: Social Work

Gierra Doss
Middle Tennessee State University
Major: English

Altie Garcia
Cumberland University
Major: Criminal Justice

Isreal Hernandez
Tennessee A&amp;M University
Major: Marketing

Jose Luis Orteo
Tennessee State University
Major: Political Science

Anton Saba
Bellmont University
Major: Finance

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About the Program

In 2017, the Tennessee Education Equity Coalition launched the Mosaic Fellowship, a transformational strategy to develop and connect education leaders of color to enact change and enhance their voices to ensure equity and excellence in education in Tennessee. Meet the 2017-2018 Mosaic Fellows. Meet the 2018-2019 Mosaic Fellows.

We seek to identify, convene and build a network of leaders of color across Tennessee who will have the potential to strengthen and shape the future of the educational excellence and equity movement. We seek leaders who are reimagining and improving public education in Tennessee, and particularly those who represent communities that are currently underserved by our public schools.
INFORM
Casting our Vision Series: Part 1 – November 2018
Research and Policy Recommendations

• Tied to one of our four Priorities
• Public Release
• Advocacy and Outreach
• Opportunities to inform policymakers and broaden our network

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Casting Our Vision Series
– Part 2, May 2019

• Listening Tour
• Analysis of local, state and national data
• Release followed by four webinars

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The Every Student Succeeds Act

Three Years Later

Why it matters
Every Student Succeeds Act

• Passed December 2015
• Result of advocacy by many groups
• Sponsored by Sen. Lamar Alexander and Sen. Patty Murray
• Tennessee Succeeds approved in 2017
• Equity Coalition informed the plan and advocated on a range of issues

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The ESSA Implementation Sequence

- Input & Crafting of the Plan
- Assessments & Other Measures of School Success
- Accountability
- Identification and Differentiation
- Support and Intervention
- Public Reporting

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## School Grade Calculations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>K-8 Schools</th>
<th>High Schools</th>
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- **New:** A-F Grades and Per-Pupil Funding
- TN Legislation from 2016 requires A-F grades for every public school in TN
- First A-F grades will be released in October of 2019
- A-F Grades based on combination of measures
School Grading

- ESSA requires that every school is given a rating.
- Tennessee has chosen five metrics to determine school grades in our state.
- It is important to know that a school's grade does not measure how a student is performing, but instead, how well a school is serving students.
A-F Grades

- A-F grades are not the only factor in measuring school success.
- ESSA requires public reporting on additional metrics.

**A**
- Reward School status is given to all schools earning an "A" grade. Schools with high standardized test scores will be designated as Reward Schools. But, schools with lower test scores that are making extraordinary academic progress will also be labeled a Reward School.

**B**
- At this time, it is not known how a school will earn a "B" grade.

**C**
- At this time, it is not known how a school will earn a "C" grade.

**D**
- Focus School status is given to all schools earning a "D" grade. School districts will need to develop and implement school improvement plans for all schools with a "D" grade.

**F**
- Priority School status is given to all schools earning an "F" grade. This means the school ranks in the bottom 5% of all schools in the state and if it's a high school, that the school is not graduating enough of its students. Schools with this grade will also be placed on the School Improvement Continuum which means the state will allocate additional support and interventions to help improve the school's performance.

**-**
- Focus School status is also given to all schools earning a "-" grade on an A, B or C grade. A "-" is given to schools who are not adequately serving one or more student groups.
Why Does Public Reporting Matter?

• Key information is provided on:
  • The performance of every school and district on a range of measures
  • The performance of specific groups of students
  • Student access to opportunities to learn on a range of metrics
  • Funding allocations
  • Provides advocates and community groups a way to identify critical inequities and to push for change
  • Report cards help families make key decisions

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2018 Report Cards

• School ratings were released last year on the TDOE website
• Testing administration issues led to a 1-4 rating system
• Priority School list was released in 2018
• A-F grades will come out this October
  • Grades are based on a combination of measures with different weighting

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Sample Report Card from TDOE

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New: Per-Pupil Funding Reporting

ESSA requires that states report on per-pupil expenditures of federal, state, and local funds:

• disaggregated by source
• for each district and school for the preceding fiscal year
• including actual salary and non-personnel expenditures

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Legislative and Policymaker Engagement

- Weekly Legislative Newsletter
- Webinars
- Bill Tracker
- Appointments with Legislators
- Day on the Hill

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Guiding Questions

- Who stands to benefit?
- Who stands to lose?
- Does the bill target a specific population, region or type of school?
- How will we know if this policy is working?
- Who are the actors promoting or writing this piece of legislation?
- What research or data is available to support this legislation?
- How does this bill improve education outcomes for students in Tennessee?
Education Savings Accounts & Vouchers

• Created Guide
• Shared with Members and Policymakers
• Hosted Webinar

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We Took a Stand a Position on ESAs

April 2019

Tennessee governor’s voucher proposal is ‘step backwards,’ says civil rights, education coalition

BY MARTA W. ALDRICH . APRIL 15, 2019

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What do our members say?

• Asked us to…
  • Focus on rural students
  • Include teacher voice
  • Remain focused on ESSA implementation
  • Elevate access and success related to EPSOs and CTE pathways
  • Increase our reach and expand membership
  • Role and profile of the Coalition going forward – be bold and flex our muscle
Questions?