



STATE OF TENNESSEE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 22, 2007

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Metro schools on track with high priority schools, but could still do more

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Metro Nashville Public Schools has many key initiatives in place to assist high priority schools, a report by the Comptroller’s Office finds. However, the district struggles to clearly articulate these initiatives to schools and the public.

The report, titled “District Approaches to Improving High Priority Schools – Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools,” looks at the district’s response to nine schools in the district that failed to make adequate yearly progress on state assessments for three years in a row.

Graduation Rate – Because of the district’s low graduation rate, MNPS instituted policy changes and targeted academic assistance to low achieving students. This focus has begun to pay off, with the district graduation rate jumping over six percentage points in the last two years.

Professional Development – The district has a strong professional development system for teachers that is linked to achievement goals and includes a multitude of high-quality courses. However, teachers and the public have difficulty getting information about professional development because the district lacks a written, stand-alone professional development plan.

Support for New Teachers – The district has some support systems in place for new teachers, but lacks a clear, structured new teacher induction plan. Without adequate and ongoing support, new teachers fall victim to the stress and demands of the job and may not stay in the field.

The report recommends that Metro Nashville Public Schools:

- Continue expending its community partnerships and relations
- Develop a comprehensive professional development plan that is clear and accessible to the public
- Create and fund a rigorous orientation and induction program for new teachers

The report is available on the Comptroller’s Web site at www.comptroller.state.tn.us.

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