

WZTV Nashville

MNPS highlighted in national study for academic recovery efforts post-pandemic

by Kylie Walker
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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (WZTV) — A national study on post-pandemic learning is highlighting Metro Nashville Public Schools.

According to the national study between Harvard and Stanford Universities, MNPS ranked 3rd in math growth from 2022 to 2023 out of the top 100 districts across the country. The district also ranked sixth out of the top 100 in reading growth during that time.

JC Bowman with the Professional Educators of TN calls it a win.

"Tennessee was singled out by the report, which was done by Harvard and Stanford, as a state doing a lot of great things," said Bowman. "It's a good thing, and I hope our state leaders are paying attention because educators worked hard for this."

Despite the growth, school leaders acknowledge there's still more work to be done.

In a news conference Tuesday morning, Tina Stenson with the district's research team said Metro is still shy of pre-pandemic numbers.

"Neither we nor the state have reached pre-pandemic levels," said Stenson. "We are on our way if we continue to accelerate the way we are. Only a couple of states have made it to pre-pandemic levels."

Stenson was then asked when the district will get there.

"I have not calculated that far out yet and am still working through the methodology that this group used," said Stenson.

FOX 17 News also took this time to ask about Glencliff High, a school that received an "F" grade from the Tennessee Department of Education after nearly half of the students failed to graduate.

"They had a 10-point growth in their graduation rate year over year, which is a tremendous improvement. And so, we continue to work with Glencliff High School," said MNPS spokesperson Sean Braisted.

Braisted also says Glencliff adopted Early College, which provides more students the opportunity to get college credits.

Mayor Freddie O'Connel also joined city leaders at the news conference, saying he is excited that schools are the top investment in the first proposed capital spending plan. He says our teachers and students are worth the investment.