Metro Nashville Public Schools’ Race to the Top Grant is providing resources for the comprehensive transformation of the school district. We are committed to building the capacity of teachers, school-based leaders and district administrators to increase the academic achievement of every student in every classroom.

As of January 1, 2012, Metro Nashville Public Schools has allocated $17.6 million of its $30.3 million Race to the Top grant from the U.S. Department of Education through the Tennessee Department of Education’s First to the Top program. The $17.6 million investment has been allocated according to the following categories:

**Goal 1: Ensure that school, district and community leadership is focused on high student achievement and cultivates a collaborative environment that produces excellence for our diverse student body**

**MNPS Achieves First to the Top**

*MNPS Achieves* launched in May 2009 with more than 200 district and community leaders working in **Transformational Leadership Groups (TLGs)** to transform Metro Nashville Public Schools in areas of high need. Five TLGs address students’ academic performance: High Schools, Middle Schools, Elementary Schools, English Learners, and Special Needs. Five TLGs focus on improving processes and systems: Human Capital, Communications, Data Management & Technology, Central Office Effectiveness and Community Supports.

Now integrated with Race to the Top (“RTTT”) goals and supported by RTTT funding, *MNPS Achieves: First to the Top* continues to focus on improving all students’ academic achievement consistent with RTTT priorities: Standards and Assessments, Data Systems to Support Instruction, Great Teachers and Leaders, Turning around Low-Performing Schools, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education.

Approximately $2.6 million in Race to the Top funds have been allocated to *MNPS Achieves: First to the Top* in order to provide resources to facilitate and evaluate reform efforts, as well as competitive grants to fund innovative reforms generated by the TLGs.

Collaborative partnerships provide the cornerstone for sustainability of MNPS’ transformation.
Goal 2: Graduate all students from high school with college and career readiness by ensuring academic success for every student

Standards and Assessments
Race to the Top funding provides teachers, instructional coaches and other school-based instructional leaders with professional development to support the district’s K-12 transition to national Common Core Standards. Standards-based professional development promotes highly effective, research-based instruction to increase student achievement through rigorous curriculum content aligned to the new standards.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)
To date, $1.2 million in Race to the Top funds, along with $2.0 million in additional First to the Top funds provided by the Tennessee Department of Education and Battelle Memorial Institute, have provided resources to establish STEM schools and instructional programs with rigorous, applied learning for K-12 students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Funds are invested in professional development for school staff, online resources for teachers and schools, state-of-the-art equipment and laboratories for scientific study, and the program development with post-secondary institutions, business partners, and a statewide STEM network.

Instructional Technology
Race to the Top funds have been invested in the establishment of the MNPS virtual school and in a competitive grant process awarded to 10 schools to provide funds for the creation of innovative, technology-based learning environments to support academic achievement.

Goal 3: Create a self-renewing organization of great teachers and leaders
Race to the Top funds have been heavily invested in developing the capacity of people at all levels of the organization. A primary focus has been the transformation of the MNPS Human Capital system with the goal of recruiting, retaining and supporting the most talented and effective teachers. We are investing in leadership development for teachers, principals, instructional coaches and central office administrators through professional training, networked learning and innovative human capital structures. Additionally, investments are being made in technology-based instructional supports and resources.

Goal 4: Provide an effective data system to support instruction
Race to the Top funds have provided resources to take our existing data warehouse to scale, increase its technical capabilities and provide links to other data systems. Approximately $2.0 million has been invested to employ data coaches to train teachers and school administrators in how to access, analyze and use data to increase student achievement. The increased investment is structured to gradually transition to the district’s general operating budget beginning in 2012-2013.

Goal 5: Turn Around Low-Performing Schools
Race to the Top funds provide investment for recruiting and developing highly effective teachers into high-poverty, underperforming middle schools, as well as in school-based turnaround strategies in high priority, non-Title I schools. Investments are also focused on evaluating charter-based turnaround efforts. The district’s comprehensive turnaround efforts encompass strategies that combine Race to the Top funds with other federal and local funding in order to maximize impact and leverage sustainability.