



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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MNPS Eligible for Prestigious Broad Prize

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (Dec. 18, 2006) – Metro Nashville Public Schools is eligible for the prestigious \$1 million Broad Prize for Urban Education, the nation’s largest award for school districts, the district announced today.

Of the 15,000 school districts in the United States, The Broad Prize considers just 100 – the largest urban school districts like Metro Nashville Public Schools that serve significant numbers of low-income and minority students.

In the spring of 2007, five finalists that have made the most student achievement gains will be selected from the 100 eligible districts by a board of prominent education leaders. Metro Nashville Public Schools’ will submit student achievement data and other information that will be rigorously analyzed along with that of other urban districts across the country by MPR Associates, Inc., one of the nation's leading education research consulting firms.

“The nation’s largest districts face significant challenges and rarely get the recognition they deserve,” said Eli Broad, founder of The Broad Foundation which sponsors The Broad Prize annually. “We are looking forward to identifying the five urban school districts in 2007 that have shown the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement while reducing achievement gaps among income and ethnic groups.”

School districts cannot apply for the award.

“We are pleased to be in consideration for the nation’s top education award and look forward to learning how we stack up against other urban districts,” said Metro Nashville Board of Public Education Chairwoman Marsha Warden.

The Broad Foundation is a Los Angeles-based venture philanthropic organization established in 1999 by Eli and Edythe Broad to dramatically improve student achievement in urban public schools through better governance, management, competition and labor relations. Eli Broad, who founded two Fortune 500 companies over a five-decade business career, created the Broad Foundation. For more information, visit: www.broadfoundation.org.

Metro Nashville Public Schools provide a range of educational opportunities to more than 74,000 students in Nashville and Davidson County. The governing body for MNPS is the Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Board of Public Education, a nine-member group elected by residents of Metropolitan Nashville. For more information, please visit www.mnps.org.

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