



# News

from the MNPS Communications Office

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools  
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## **Metro Schools' Food Service and Transportation departments receiving external reviews**

**NASHVILLE, TN (October 26, 2010)** – Two Metro Nashville Public Schools' departments will host outside review teams beginning this week. The teams will be analyzing and providing recommendations for increased efficiency and quality improvement in the district's Food Service and Transportation departments.

Tuesday, Oct. 26, a group of professionals from other large school districts across the country will arrive in Nashville to study the district's Food Service operation at the request of Metro Schools. The study is in collaboration with the Metropolitan Health Department and is being funded with a federal Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) grant received by the Health Department earlier this year. The purpose of the grant is to increase healthy eating and active living in the city.

"This study will allow us to get input from others who are doing the work we do in large districts across the country," said MNPS Food Service Director Jay Nelson. "We are looking forward to showing them our operation and learning if they have ideas on how we can improve either in process or food quality."

During their three-day visit, the members will meet with district Food Service staff, Health Department staff, community advocacy groups, and visit school cafeterias to develop their analysis and recommendations. Among other topics, the group will review whether centralizing food preparation and warehouse distribution processes would improve food quality and efficiency while also allowing for the use of more locally grown products; ways to improve the nutritional quality of food; and how wages and benefits compare with other comparably-sized districts. Since Food Service is self-funded through revenues, the group will also provide insight on how to increase revenues and more effectively market to students.

The panel is led by The Council of the Great City Schools, which includes the nation's largest school districts. Members of the panel are from Los Angeles, Dallas, San Diego, Philadelphia, Norfolk, Jefferson County (CO), and Guilford County (NC).

Also this week, consultants hired by Metro Schools will begin a study of all areas of the district's transportation operations and provide recommendations for improvement. The study, which will cost \$9,500 and is expected to last for a couple of weeks, is being conducted by Ohio-based First Solutions Consulting. This review was announced to employees in September and was requested by transportation administration as an update to information included in a similar study by MGT of America in 2001.

As part of their scope of work, the consultants will review several different components of the district's transportation service, including the bus garage operation, routing and scheduling processes, school start times and fuel purchasing plans.

Both reviews are part of ongoing improvements in the district, which have already included changes in the structure and operation of the Federal Programs Office, the Central Office, teacher staffing formulas, business practices and inventory procedures. Information and recommendations that result from the studies will be considered as the district continues to seek ways to more efficiently provide service to students and the community.

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*Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools serve nearly 78,000 students with the goal of being the first choice for families 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](http://www.mnps.org).*