

The Opportunity Gap...

As community residents, business leaders, parents, and education advocates, we are working together to embrace and support the bold reforms and programs implemented by Hamilton County Schools that are needed to dramatically improve our public education and to create real opportunity and success for all of our children.

We understand that change is never easy -- it is essential. Building a truly great public education system - one that serves ALL children - is critical for the continued success of our community.

There have been some questions in our community about what educational equity means. At its heart, equity is about making sure that all children in Hamilton County - whether black, white, or brown – have a real opportunity to reach their full academic potential - regardless of their background, neighborhood, or family circumstance.

The shared prosperity of our community is something we can all strive to achieve.

While it's reasonable to debate the potential strategies the school system might implement to address and improve educational equity for all students, we must address equity – the facts - and the gaps - within our public schools.

If we truly want to be a community where all children have meaningful opportunities - a community that can truly say no matter where you are born in Hamilton County you will have an equal opportunity for success - then we must dedicate ourselves to addressing the opportunity gaps that limit far too many of our students.

This community-wide focus on opportunity and equity is about meeting the unique needs of every student where they are.

Our future success as a community depends on the educational opportunities we provide our children today. We will continue to actively and proudly support the work of Hamilton County Schools, and all of our many community partners, to ensure that real educational opportunities reach all of our children.

We believe this is the right thing to do – and we believe that for our community to succeed - ALL truly needs to mean ALL – when it comes to educating our children and preparing them for a productive and successful life.

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12. Ternae T. Jordan Sr.; Pastor and Community Leader
13. City Councilwoman Carol Berz
14. Lisa Pinckney; Executive Director, Footprint Foundation
15. Laurie Stevens; Founder/Director, Chattanooga School of Language, LLC
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20. Jennifer Holder; Co-Founder, The Chatterly
21. Mike Sarvis; Market President, Synovus
22. Rachel Gammon; Executive Director, Northside Neighborhood House
23. Sarah Morgan; President, Benwood Foundation
24. Andrew Rodgers; ACE IoT Solutions
25. Kevin L. Adams; Bishop, Olivet
26. Hal Bowling; Co-founder and Executive Director, LAUNCH CHA
27. Alison Lebovitz; President, One Clip at a Time
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37. Bob Bosworth; Community Member
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50. Shawanda Mason; Co-Founder, The Chatterly
51. Jonathan Bragdon; 2.0 Innovation Action Team and entrepreneur
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53. Travis Lytle; Community Member
54. Jim Barrott, Executive Vice President, Technical College, Chattanooga State

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57. Rev. Ann G. Weeks; Community Member
58. Juan Moreno; Educator
59. Timothy Benson; Community Member
60. Julie Stowe; Chair Elect, Community Foundation Of Greater Chattanooga
61. Peter Woolcock; Chattanooga Football Club Foundation
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63. Robert Clark; Community Member
64. Shewanee Howard-Baptiste; Community Member
65. Henry Schulson, Executive Director, Creative Discovery Museum
66. Kristina Montague; Trustee, Footprint Foundation
67. Mo Baptiste; Community Member
68. Karlene Clarity; Community Member
69. Barry Large; Entrepreneur/Investor
70. Charles Bass; Community Member
71. Judge Walter F. Williams
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73. Becky W. Covington; Educator
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75. Tina Gibson; Link Inc. Member and Community Supporter
76. Brandon Hubbard-Heitz; Community Member
77. Angel McGee Ulmer; Community Leader, The Links, Inc.
78. Matthew Killebrew; Red Branch Development
79. Rosite Delgado; Community Member
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Bergen Baucom; Community Volunteer
89. Kelly Fitzgerald; Engaged Citizen
90. Rick Hitchcock; Community Member
91. William R. Rush; YMCA Metropolitan Nashville
92. Ann Coulter; A. Coulter Consulting
93. Emily O'Donnell; HCDE parent
94. Jennie Gentry; HCDE Educated
95. Chris Smith; PhD, FNP, BC, Educator
96. Susan Byrd; Retired Educator

97. Deanna Duncan, MD; Community Member
98. Jonathan Gibbons; Community Member
99. Alfred Smith, Trustee; Footprint Foundation
100. Danna Bailey; Engaged Citizen
101. Annette Douglas Adams; Community Member
102. Tekelia C. Kelly; Founder/Owner, CHIPS Learning Services
103. Alyce Benson; Community Member
104. Stephen Swan; Engaged Citizen
105. Ariel Ford; Community Member
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108. Everlena M. Holmes; Community Member
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110. Emily Baker; Educator
111. Jennifer Andrews; Chattanooga 2.0
112. Rachel M. Kelly; Ed.S, NCSP, Nationally Certified School Psychologist
113. Chantelle Roberson; Attorney
114. Bill Kennedy; 2.0 Great Teachers Action Team
115. Lakweshia Ewing; Community Leader
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126. Sheldon Grizzle; Director of the Chattanooga Football Club Foundation
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