



Education & Youth

goals & policies

E&Y goal 1

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Pursue the vision and agenda established through the Child and Youth Master Plan to provide quality care, education and opportunity to Nashville's children and youth.

Why Is This Important? All Nashville benefits when Nashville's children and youth are safe, healthy, engaged and learning. The benefits include:

- » Preparing youth to be productive participants in economic and civic life.
- » Reduced costs in addressing health care and delinquency.
- » The fact that healthy, engaged children and youth add to Nashville's vitality.

All Nashvillians need to support quality schools, child care, pre-k and after school care. We need to have high expectations for student's success. Our young people need a clear path to succeed as adults who are future workers and active participants in civic life. The percentage of Nashville's growth that is made up of households without children is increasing more quickly than households with children. It will be critical to convince these households of how important it is that they support children and youth.

E&Y 1.1

Provide strong public and private institutional support and resources for Nashville's evolving and diverse PK-16 school learning environments.

E&Y 1.2

Provide mentors and role models from throughout the community to work with children and youth.

E&Y 1.3

Empower Nashville's children and youth to participate in setting the course of their education, activities, employment and other aspects of their life and act upon their decisions by giving them what they need to make informed decisions for their future, a voice in decisions impacting them, and genuine access to resources and opportunities, regardless of their means.

E&Y 1.4

Create positive pathways for children and youth who are facing homelessness, drug or alcohol addiction, delinquency/gangs, dropping out of school, and/other threats to their well-being.

E&Y 1.5

Support children with disabilities and their families so that they are fully accepted and included in opportunities for learning and success.

E&Y 1.6

Address challenges faced by children and youth in foster homes and their transition into adulthood.

E&Y 1.7

Provide support to children, youth, and families facing challenges associated with citizenship status, including access to PK-16 educational opportunities.



E&Y goal 2

Provide all children, youth, families, and caregivers quality educational opportunities, information needed to make informed decisions on school choices, and genuine access to follow through on the choice.

Why Is This Important? These policies assume that children and their families will have more choices in educational opportunities in the future. They will have more opportunities to access learning settings that meet the child's hopes and needs. All children deserve access to high quality education so that they can enjoy bright futures.

Changing technology and evolving thoughts on education mean that educational environments are rapidly changing. This is expected to continue in the future. Educational campuses should be adaptable to future changes. Public lands and buildings are scarce and becoming more expensive to secure and difficult to locate. Nashville needs to make wise and forward thinking decisions about school siting and design.

E&Y 2.1

Provide all families with the information they need to access quality educational choices in a format and language that is relevant and understandable to them.

E&Y 2.2

Provide early educational programs such as quality, accessible early childhood care and pre-kindergarten to ensure that all children come into the K-12 school environment on an equal footing in terms of their ability to learn academic subjects.

E&Y 2.3

Provide quality early childhood and PK-12 education to all students that considers each student's learning style, language, culture, special learning needs, or economic status, meeting each child where they are in life.

E&Y 2.4

Provide systems, support, and resources to support graduation from high school, addressing the needs and challenges of individual students.

E&Y 2.5

Provide youth nearing the point of high school graduation and their families with information, support, and opportunity to pursue higher education, training, and/or work experience to fit their goals.

E&Y 2.6

Provide access to affordable extracurricular activities, technology, and healthy physical activities.

E&Y 2.7

Develop educational facilities and campuses that can flexibly respond to evolving ways that educational opportunities may be provided and support innovative use of land and buildings for this purpose.

E&Y 2.8

Site schools to provide convenient county-wide access, anchor communities, invite parental involvement, and promote the health of students.



E&Y goal 3

Provide Nashville's families and caregivers with access to the resources, support systems and opportunities they need for their children to be safe and healthy and achieve academic and life success.

Why Is This Important? In Nashville, "families" are becoming more diverse in many ways. Nashville's "families" take many forms, including multigenerational, single parent, foster, and same-sex households. The economic and cultural backgrounds of families vary. So do the challenges they face and the resources that are available to them. Barriers arise from issues of poverty, lack of education and training, and language differences. These can affect the future opportunities available to the children in their care. Families need support systems that respond to their diversity to help their children succeed.

Areas where this support is needed are:

- » Employment and workforce development
- » Affordable housing
- » Transit
- » Affordable health care
- » Access to quality child care and before and after school programming
- » Training/education on finances, parenting, language, and other life skills
- » Children with disabilities

E&Y 3.1

Provide parents and caregivers the opportunities, resources and support they need to succeed, reduce their stress, and allow them to dedicate more time and energy to their children.

E&Y 3.2

Ensure that all children and youth are living in safe home environments.

E&Y 3.3

Provide positive adult support to reduce children's toxic stress (strong, unrelieved stress due to neglect or abuse that can permanently limit a child's potential).

E&Y goal 4

Make Nashville's neighborhoods safe, accessible, and welcoming for families so that they provide opportunities for play, learning and social engagement that help children and youth thrive.

Why Is this Important? Children are greatly influenced by their environment – their families, peers, schools and neighborhoods. Children and youth need access to the neighborhoods where they will be safe when they walk, bike, and play outside for their health and well-being. Safe, welcoming environments will also help children to develop healthy habits that they will carry with them throughout their lives. Access to neighborhood opportunities helps young people enjoy the benefits of "social capital." Social capital refers to the connections among different kinds of people in a neighborhood. These connections provide residents with exposure to knowledge, ideas, tools, resources, and opportunities.

Many Nashville neighborhoods face challenges that threaten children's health and well-being. These challenges are often related to poverty. They can affect rural, suburban, or urban neighborhoods.



E&Y 4.1

Ensure that Nashville's neighborhoods are safe for children and youth and have public places that are free of violence.

E&Y 4.2

Provide genuine access to the elements necessary for healthy and successful lives – ample parks and open spaces with structured activities for families to promote active lifestyles; transit; healthy food options; access to health care services, libraries, schools, community centers, jobs, entertainment, and other neighborhood-based services.

E&Y 4.3

Provide educational facilities and campuses within neighborhoods that serve as neighborhood hubs and are important to neighborhood identity.

E&Y 4.4

Ensure that Nashville's neighborhoods are welcoming and accessible to all by ensuring affordability and transportation choices

E&Y 4.5

Create neighborhoods that provide a sense of belonging for children and youth, whether they live in Nashville's urban, suburban, or rural neighborhoods.

E&Y 4.6

Increase civic engagement to provide youth a voice in the growth of the city and in decisions that will impact their lives, such as the education system, transit, activities, and parks and recreation.