

# PROJECT RECONNECT

## Action Report 2021-2022

### About the Initiative

Each year, hundreds of students previously enrolled in Metro Nashville Public Schools do not re-enroll in the new school year and are removed from rosters after 10 days.

Alignment Nashville's Attendance A-Team identified this reality as an opportunity to re-align and activate existing community resources to help resolve the problem. As a result, the A-Team developed the **Project Reconnect Initiative** to identify, train, and mobilize community partners to assist in locating and re-engaging those MNPS students.

In July 2021, the A-Team launched an Invitation to Participate for organizations to join the initiative. **The criteria to participate required that community organizations have the capacity to:**

- Send staff to Project Reconnect training
- Make efforts to find families and caregivers of students who are not re-enrolled
- Assist families and caregivers in getting students re-enrolled in MNPS
- Help families identify barriers to enrollment and needed resources
- Sign and adhere to an MNPS Data Contract
- Complete electronic reporting form
- Complete a Community Partner evaluation survey

### How Project Reconnect worked:

- Once a community partner was identified, trained, and prepared to join the initiative, MNPS provided a targeted list of students and families to partners based on that partner's specific population or service area.
- The community partner attempted to contact or locate the families of these identified students to understand why they were not re-enrolled and assisted them with re-enrollment if appropriate.
- Partners explored barriers to re-enrollment that were experienced by the families and communicated back to MNPS through the Collaborative Referral System.

### 2021-2022 Project Reconnect Partners

Special thanks to these community organizations who joined the 2021 Project Reconnect Initiative!

- Backfield in Motion
- Catholic Charities
- Communities in Schools
- McNeilly Center for Children
- Nashville International Center for Empowerment

*“Through Project Reconnect, we got to know more about some of the families we serve and learned how to be a more effective bridge to the school community.”*

*-Project Reconnect Partner*

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### Project Reconnect Initiative Outcomes

The Attendance A-Team developed ambitious metrics to assess its performance for the 2021 school year, including:

**20** community organizations will sign the MNPS data contract and become Project Reconnect Partners:

Due to various factors, the the A-Team fell significantly short of meeting this goal with just **6** organizations satisfying all requirements to become a partner.

**70%** of identified students are found and families or caregivers are successfully contacted:

**Approximately 47%** of calls made by Project Reconnect Partners were successful in contacting families. Language differences, disconnected phones, & family relocation were identified as challenges.

**100%** of families who are identified by Project Reconnect Partners as needing resources are entered into the Collaborative Referral System.

✓ Although the overall number of resource needs identified were relatively low, **100%** were entered into the Collaborative Referral System.

**In total, 79 students were re-enrolled as a result of the collaborative efforts of Project Reconnect Partners with Metro Nashville Public Schools.**

A total of **649** students were identified by MNPS as missing after the first 10 days of school. Of those, **324** names were shared with Project Reconnect Partners while the others were managed by Truancy Compliance Officers.

*“Some families just needed more info, some were apprehensive due to COVID, and others were confused by the transition from virtual to in-person. Language barriers also played a big part for some. As a Project Reconnect partner, we got to be a resource for parents to help them navigate a system they were not familiar with.”*

*-Project Reconnect Partner*

### 2021-2022 Attendance A-Team Members

#### Alignment Team Co-Chairs:

**Dr. Carol Lampkin-Brown**, Metro Nashville Public Schools  
**Magistrate Jennifer Wade**, Metro Juvenile Court

#### Alignment Team Members:

**Bridge Mahoney Caldwell**, Attorney  
**Catherine Knowles**, Metro Nashville Public Schools  
**Katrinna Collins**, Metro Nashville Public Schools  
**Kawema**, Communities in Schools  
**Ken Stark**, Metro Nashville Public Schools  
**LaSeanda Sanders**, Metro Nashville Public Schools  
**Leigh Patton**, Metro Nashville Public Schools  
**Marcel Hernandez**, Be About Change  
**Miriam Leibowitz**, WeGo Public Transit  
**Rikitta Dews**, Communities in Schools  
**Viva Price**, Youth Encouragement Services  
**William Clemmons**, Metro Nashville Police Department

#### Alignment Team Staff:

**Glen Biggs**, A-Team Manager, Alignment Nashville  
**Lwam Tecleab**, A-Team Data Manager, Alignment Nashville