

ACTION REPORT

2026 POSITIVE SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

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The 2026 Positive Schools Conference, a cornerstone event for Metro Nashville Public Schools educators and professionals, took place on July 16, 2026, at James Lawson High School. This year's conference drew in nearly 400 attendees, presenters, exhibitors, volunteers, and MNPS leadership.

The event kicked off with remarks from MNPS leadership, including Superintendent Dr. Adrienne Battle, and an awards ceremony recognizing excellence in positive schools development by both internal MNPS departments and community partners. Conference attendees then had the opportunity to visit exhibitors and learn more about their resources and offerings; we were thrilled to have a record number of sponsors and exhibitors this year. Participants could also visit the Mindfulness Room to practice their own self care throughout the day.



2026 Positive Schools Conference Award winners recognized during the opening session



A conference attendee chats with an exhibitor

2026 POSITIVE SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

**25-26
OUTCOMES**

KEY FINDINGS

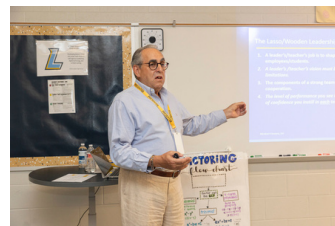
- Nearly 400 MNPS staff & contractors, presenters, exhibitors, volunteers, and MNPS leadership were in attendance.
- Providing this level of professional development for that many educators through a traditional conference model could cost the district upwards of \$500,000 in registration, travel, and logistics. But by aligning our local resources and lifting up our own expertise, we've created a high-impact, accessible experience that's customized for our schools and students.

Attendees then participated in a variety of workshops and breakout sessions, all aimed at building and enhancing a positive school culture in each school building across the district. The diverse range of topics ensured that there was something valuable for everyone, from teachers and administrators to counselors and support staff. The conference day wrapped up with a unique closing session that included:

- Performances from the James Lawson High School & Cane Ridge High School drumlines
- Live performance of the MNPS anthem "Every Student Known," created by MNPS students & music educators
- A showcase of the work students have been doing with Lumi, an AI-powered storytelling tool
- A special visit by Lumi Story's founder, former professional football player and activist Colin Kaepernick

2026 Positive Schools Conference award winners were:

- Leading with Support: MNPS Department Awards for Positive Schools = Special Populations & Exceptional Education
- Community Impact Awards: Driving Positive School Success = My Brother's Keeper and Dr. Deandrea Witherspoon Nash



Snapshots of presentations held throughout the conference day



Conference attendees enjoy a visit from furry friends courtesy of HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response



Scenes from the conference closing session

**2026 POSITIVE
SCHOOLS CONFERENCE**

**PLANNING TEAM &
SPONSORS**

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