

# PUBLIC IMPACT



## News Release

March 7, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Public Impact Announces Three Nashville Schools Implementing an Opportunity Culture to Extend the Reach of Excellent Teachers**

CHAPEL HILL, N.C.—Public Impact, a national education organization, announces the latest implementation site in its initiative to extend the reach of excellent teachers and build an Opportunity Culture for teachers and students:

#### **Metro Nashville Public Schools' Innovation Zone**

Three pilot schools in the “iZone” will use the Opportunity Culture school models designed to reach more students with excellent teachers, *for more pay, within regular budgets*. The schools aim to reach at least 80 percent of students with excellent teachers in charge of their learning.

In 2011, Public Impact launched an initiative to help the U.S. close achievement gaps and meet rising global standards by extending the reach of excellent teachers to more students. In its quest to reach all students with excellent teachers by 2025, the Public Impact team published [school model summaries](#) and [detailed models](#) that use job redesign and technology to reach more students with excellent teachers, for more pay, within budget. Most of the models, which were developed with significant input and feedback from teachers, create new teaching roles, form collaborative teams, and enhance teacher development with time during the school day for teams to plan. All teachers and staff have the opportunity, in every role, to develop to their full potential through collaboration with and leadership from excellent teachers. Career advancement allows more pay and greater reach. Public Impact calls this an Opportunity Culture, as explained in greater detail in an [infographic](#), [slide show](#) and [videos](#)—all available free of charge at [OpportunityCulture.org](http://OpportunityCulture.org). The website also provides [tools](#) for school design teams and related [publications](#).

In Tennessee, Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) created the iZone in the summer of 2011 to turn around low-performing schools by giving them extra resources and support. Public Impact is providing intensive design and implementation assistance to three iZone schools, which will implement new design models that extend their excellent teachers' reach no later than fall 2013.

“To close achievement gaps, students need great teachers consistently,” Bryan C. Hassel, co-director of Public Impact, said. “Good teachers need time to collaborate with great teachers on the job. Teachers need to advance their careers without leaving classrooms. Reach models accomplish these goals.”

All three schools—Buena Vista Elementary, Robert Churchwell Museum Magnet Elementary and Bailey STEM Magnet Middle School—will implement the Multi-Classroom Leadership model. Under this model, an excellent teacher reaches more students with excellence by both teaching and leading a team of teachers who use the leader’s methods and tools. Accountable for the learning results of all the students in the “pod,” the teacher-leader earns more—through regular funding, not temporary grants.

The three schools may incorporate other models as well, such as Time-Technology Swaps, in which students learn basic material online for as little as an hour a day, giving the excellent teacher time to reach more students with personalized and higher-order learning, as well as to plan and collaborate with other teachers. All together, these schools intend to reach more than 1,400 students with excellent teaching.

“We’re committed to bringing teaching excellence to far more students,” said Alan Coverstone, MNPS executive director of innovation.

MNPS is exploring ways to expand this work substantially beyond the Innovation Zone schools. “This approach will let us help more students and offer a nurturing, rewarding workplace to our teachers, without breaking the bank,” Coverstone said. “We’re excited about the potential for scale.”

MNPS is at the leading edge of a growing number of districts and charter school organizations now seeking to create an Opportunity Culture for their teachers and reach all students with excellent teachers. Public Impact has already been working with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools’ [Project L.I.F.T.](#)—another innovative zone within a large urban school district—and with the new [Opportunity Culture Charter School Network](#). [Public Impact is](#) poised to announce more Opportunity Culture sites in the coming weeks.

Additionally, Public Impact will document the planning process, reach model designs and implementation, and will incorporate the lessons learned from these schools’ work into the materials on [OpportunityCulture.org](#), to help other schools.

Funding for Public Impact’s work with MNPS comes from federal School Improvement Grant funds provided to MNPS. The Opportunity Culture initiative is made possible in part by funding from [Carnegie Corporation of New York](#), the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#), and [The Joyce Foundation](#).

For more information, please visit [www.OpportunityCulture.org](http://www.OpportunityCulture.org). To learn more about becoming an Opportunity Culture implementation site, please visit <http://www.opportunityculture.org/our-initiative/participating-sites>. To arrange an interview with Dr. Bryan C. Hassel, contact Carol Williams at [carol\\_williams@publicimpact.com](mailto:carol_williams@publicimpact.com); 919.240.7955.

### **About the MNPS Innovation Zone**

With funding from the federal School Improvement Grant program, Metro Nashville Public Schools created the [Innovation Zone](#) in summer 2011 to provide greater resources, flexibility and autonomy to its high-priority schools. The zone uses staff development, team leadership and collaboration, innovative programs and additional resources to develop diverse and personalized instructional programs, as well as providing a network of other services such as health and social services.

###

## **About Public Impact**

Public Impact is a national education policy and management consulting organization based in Chapel Hill, N.C. It includes professionals from many backgrounds, including former teachers. Public Impact's mission is to dramatically improve learning outcomes for all children in the U.S., with a special focus on students who are not served well. The firm employs several strategies to achieve its mission, including:

- Devising and advancing visionary but practical ideas about how to improve K–12 education;
- Scanning both education and cross-industry research to bring the most effective policy and management practices to education leaders;
- Creating user-friendly tools that help educators, policymakers, and parents; and
- Working with leading nonprofit and public agencies to implement cutting-edge ideas.

For more information on Public Impact, see [publicimpact.com](http://publicimpact.com).