

Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

Sept. 14, 2007

School theater dedicated to mayor

The performing arts theater at I.T. Creswell Arts Middle Magnet School was recognized yesterday as The Bill Purcell Performing Arts Theatre. The dedication honored the unflagging efforts of outgoing Mayor Purcell in promoting public education during his eight years in office. Pam Garrett, Executive Director of the Nashville Alliance for Public Education and Dr. Pedro Garcia, Schools Director, spoke during the ceremony before the presentation to the Mayor.

School-by-school analysis of NCLB results

From Pedro E. Garcia, Ed.D, Director of Schools

As you know, the State Department of Education has released the most recent No Child Left Behind (NCLB) information. The results of the report validated our belief that Metro Nashville Public Schools are making significant improvements and that, as a district, we are moving in the right direction. Although we still have many challenges, there is much to be proud of because more schools progressed to Good Standing or Improving status by making Adequate Yearly Progress.

While we take the report very seriously, we also know that a small number of students can affect the standing of a school and even the entire district. For example, with up to 36 benchmarks per school, our 133 schools were required to meet a possible total of 4,788 benchmarks. We missed only 2.4% of the benchmarks. Understanding that and its effect on our status is important.

NCLB legislation is ambitious, comprehensive and complex. When printed, it is nearly one-foot thick. We have had statisticians help us understand the NCLB report, and have developed the attached summary. It provides a different way to look at the results, and we hope it will help you comprehend the complexities of the NCLB report, and most of all, dispel the notion our schools are failing.

I share this information with you because of our partnership in education. You know the importance of our schools' progress, and how the school system's success is inextricably intertwined with Nashville's own success.

As always, I appreciate your support and work as we seek to celebrate our strengths and address our challenges.