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MEDIA CONTACT

Christine Schneider
Ph: (312) 835-3925
press@educationequalityindex.org

Ellie Baez
Ph: (615) 670-4982
ellie@projectrenaissancenashville.org

Nashville's Achievement Gap Larger than 75 Percent of Major U.S. Cities
The Education Equality Index Highlights Nashville's Top Schools for Children from Low-Income Families

NASHVILLE, TN — According to the Education Equality Index (EEI), a first-of-its-kind tool released today, Nashville's achievement gap between students from low-income communities and their more advantaged peers is larger than 75 percent of the nation's 100 biggest U.S. cities, including Memphis. Between 2011-14, the gap grew by an alarming 11 percent.

Positively, the city is home to a significant number of schools that are proving all children can achieve at the highest levels, regardless of demographics. Included in the release are the names of the 10 in Nashville with the smallest achievement gaps that serve a majority of students from low-income communities.

"It is undeniable that we must do more to ensure that all Nashville children have access to an education that prepares them for success in life," said Project Renaissance co-CEO Wendy Tucker. "We also now know that the solution is in our backyards, with schools like Liberty Collegiate and Rose Park Math/Science Middle Magnet proving that all children, regardless of demographics, can achieve at the highest levels. We're excited to celebrate the success of schools we know that are closing the achievement gap, and look forward to growing what works so more children can benefit."

The Education Equality Index is the first national comparative measure of the achievement gap at the school, city and state levels, and identifies the regions where children from low-income communities are most likely to attend schools with small or nonexistent achievement gaps. Funded by the [Michael & Susan Dell Foundation](#) and developed in partnership by the foundation, [Education Cities](#) and [GreatSchools](#), the EEI features school, city and state-level data covering the nation's 100 biggest cities in 35 states.

According to the EEI, the achievement gap at Liberty Collegiate is nonexistent, meaning that Liberty students from low-income communities achieve at the same levels as their more advantaged peers in Tennessee and across the nation. Project Renaissance will visit Liberty Collegiate as part of their Discover Great Schools tour. [RSVP for the event on April 4th here.](#)

"We are honored to be recognized as a school that is closing the achievement gap," said Abigail Rockey of Liberty Collegiate. "The success of our school is thanks to the tireless work of educators, endless support from parents, and determination of our students. We look forward to sharing our approach with more schools across the country in hopes that all children can reach their unlimited potential."

Key findings from the EEI include:

- Tennessee's score of 41.5 indicates that while the state's achievement gap is large, students from low-income families can and do attend schools that help them achieve at similar levels as their more advantaged peers.

- The achievement gap in Tennessee narrowed by five percent between 2011-14.
- Only one of 10 students from low-income families in Nashville attend a school that is closing the achievement gap.
- Students from low-income communities in Tennessee would be more likely to attend a school that helps them achieve at similar levels to their more advantaged peers in Memphis than in Nashville.

Listed at www.educationequalityindex.org/nashville are the 10 schools in Nashville with the smallest achievement gap. Also included on this list is KIPP Academy Nashville.

“From day one, KIPP’s mission has been to help ensure students in East Nashville have the same opportunities as any children in the city,” said Randy Dowell, Founder and Executive Director of KIPP Nashville. “We know we still have a lot of work to do to get there, but we are so proud to see our schools, teachers and students recognized on the Education Equality Index for their hard work to make our mission a reality.”

As detailed in the EEI, there are hundreds of schools across the nation where students from low-income families are achieving at levels that match or even exceed their more advantaged peers — proving that all children can excel in school when given the opportunity.

“Equality of opportunity is an American ideal,” said Ethan Gray, founder and CEO of Education Cities. “The Education Equality Index shows that while we, as a nation, have a long way to go to ensure our most vulnerable children have the opportunities they need to thrive, there are schools in almost every city proving that equality is possible.”

This is the first in a series of releases intended to identify the practices that are closing the achievement gap at the quickest pace. To see more data from the Education Equality Index and use the interactive online tool, visit www.educationequalityindex.org.

About Education Cities

Education Cities is a non-profit organization that convenes, advises, and supports a network of cities in their efforts to increase the number of great public schools. Learn more at www.education-cities.org.

About GreatSchools

Founded in 1998, GreatSchools is a national, nonpartisan nonprofit helping millions of parents find high-quality schools, support great learning, and guide their kids to great futures. GreatSchools offers thousands of articles, videos, and worksheets to help parents support their children’s learning. Last year, GreatSchools had more than 56 million unique visitors, including more than half of all U.S. families with school-age children. Headquartered in Oakland, California, GreatSchools partners with cities and states across the country to promote access to school quality data to families, particularly those in high need. Through its GreatKids program, GreatSchools promotes parenting for education success and teacher-parent collaboration.

About the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation

The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation is dedicated to improving the lives of children living in urban poverty around the world. Headquartered in Austin, TX with satellite offices in New Delhi, India and Cape Town, South Africa, the Dell family foundation funds programs that foster high-quality public education and childhood wellness, and improve the economic stability of families living in poverty. The foundation has committed more than \$1.2 billion to global children's issues and community initiatives to date. Learn more at www.msdf.org.

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