

TO: Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS)

FROM: Dwayne Tucker, Chairman and Interim CEO
LEAD Public Schools

DATE: September 15, 2017

SUBJECT: LEAD Response to FOIA Requests

LEAD Public Schools, in response to open records requests from MNPS Board member Will Pinkston and the Nashville Scene, released this afternoon a number of documents related to the recent resignation of Chris Reynolds as the CEO of LEAD Public Schools. The documents issued today – all in the form of electronic correspondence – offer additional information about our recent leadership change and they underscore our steadfast commitment to ensuring that all LEAD students have the same opportunity for academic growth and achievement across all schools in our network.

Today's release will show:

- The LEAD Board of Directors learned that internal testing from December indicated there were lagging academic indicators detected in two of our schools (Brick Church and Neely's Bend).
- The Board also learned that despite these lagging indicators, there was a continued focus on dedicating resources to expanding our network with new charter applications, rather than intensifying all efforts to improve the academic results in our existing schools.
- Following our deliberations, LEAD's Board of Directors decided a leadership change was in order, and Chris Reynolds, who had successfully led our organization for the last few years, resigned as CEO of LEAD Public Schools on August 4. As a result, I was named interim CEO while we conduct the search for our next permanent CEO.
- In addition to notifying MNPS and the ASD of our leadership change, we conducted conversations with several other philanthropic partners who support student enrichment and services beyond our public funding.

We thank Mr. Reynolds for his leadership and contributions to LEAD as the CEO for the past four years. During his time as CEO, our network grew to serve over 2,400 Nashville students, making LEAD the city's largest charter school organization. More importantly, Chris helped lead our team in their work with families and students to achieve a 100 percent college acceptance for the seniors in our first four LEAD Academy High School graduating classes (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), and to lead three of our campuses to being named Reward Schools for Growth in that same timeframe.

LEAD is fortunate to have a very dedicated staff and an outstanding team, and we look forward to working closely with all of you in serving our students and families in Nashville, as we move forward in the 2017-2018 school year. Thank you for your interest and for your continued support of LEAD Public Schools. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.