



**TO:** Dr. Adrienne Battle  
**FROM:** Hank Clay  
**SUBJECT:** Meharry Update  
**DATE:** June 11, 2021

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### **Achieved Overall Objectives**

Leading into the second semester of the 2020-21 school year, Metro Nashville Public Schools adopted a Signature Initiative known as the Innovative Public Health Response which had two major objectives:

1. Create the best possible public health COVID-19 mitigation conditions to open school buildings for the option of in-person learning.
2. Sustain the option of in-person learning through COVID-19 mitigation protocols and random testing.

Metro Schools, in partnership with Meharry Medical College (MMCV Inc.), achieved these overall objectives by providing the option for in-person learning starting on Thursday, February 4, 2021, and remained open through the end of the school year and in-person Promising Scholars this summer. Through this partnership, Metro Schools was able to avoid any school-wide closures.

### **COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies**

The first priority of the partnership with MMCV was to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our schools to protect the safety of students and Metro Schools employees. As a major deliverable at the start of the project, the MMCV team visited every school to assess existing COVID-19 practices and to develop a tailored plan as schools welcomed students for in-person instruction.

Additionally, MMCV provided staff to support every MNPS school either through a dedicated staff member or, if staffing levels were not sufficient, splitting the support between schools. These team members ensured that staff and students were aware of COVID-19 safety protocols and helped to redirect actions that were not in compliance. They also provided principals extra capacity in schools to handle the increased demands of operating a school in a pandemic. MMCV placed a thermal imaging camera at each school as a tool for the principal and staff.

### **COVID-19 Testing Protocol**

The second priority of the partnership with MMCV was to conduct random COVID-19 testing to determine if the virus was leading to an outbreak in a school community. Families opted in students to testing if they felt comfortable. School employees could also consent to be tested. Of those who consented, a random sample of students were tested. Each school was visited on a regular basis to

determine the results. Students and employees who tested positive with the rapid test were then administered a PCR test to verify the results.

See Table 1 below for the data of number of tests and positivity rate.

**Table 1: MMCV Randomized Testing and Positive Results by Quadrant**

Quadrant	Cluster	Total # of Tests	Total Positives	Total Positive %
Northeast	Maplewood	759	8	1.05%
	McGavock	1388	16	1.15%
	Stratford	1092	0	0.00%
<b>NE Total</b>		<b>3239</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0.74%</b>
Northwest	Hunters Lane	507	6	1.18%
	Pearl-Cohn	576	6	1.04%
	Whites Creek	309	7	2.27%
<b>NW Total</b>		<b>1392</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1.36%</b>
Southeast	Antioch	1570	5	0.32%
	Cane Ridge	1042	9	0.86%
	Glenclyff	758	3	0.40%
<b>SE Total</b>		<b>3370</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0.50%</b>
Southwest	Hillsboro	1080	2	0.19%
	Hillwood	672	1	0.15%
	Overton	777	9	1.16%
<b>SW Total</b>		<b>2529</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0.47%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>10530</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>0.68%</b>

Additionally, when a cluster of students or employees self-reported that they were positive for COVID-19, MMCV sent a rapid response team to do an extensive sampling of the student and employee population to determine whether more individuals needed to be isolated and whether to take additional steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The combination of these efforts and additional data allowed Metro Schools to make more targeted decisions and avoid school-wide closures since February 4, 2021. School nurses, who work with the Metro Nashville Health Department, in consultation with Metro Schools officials, conduct contact tracing and determine who is a close contact and should be quarantined or isolated. Since the current database began on November 16, 2020, 828 students have been confirmed positive for COVID-19 and 8,020 have been quarantined because they were symptomatic or deemed a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

## Federal Funding for Project

COVID-19 mitigation is a core component of the federal funding available to school districts, and Metro Schools has budgeted up to \$18 million in federal ESSER funds for the project for the spring semester of the 2020-21 school year. All expenses must be in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, policies, and procedures and represent work and services performed. We estimate to save about 20% of the budgeted cost of the project, and Table 2 listed below presents the actual and estimated expenses for the MMCV contract for the 2020-21 school year, which includes the Promising Scholars work ongoing in summer 2021.

Startup deliverable costs and services include:

- Overall creation and implementation of schedules and plans
- Data integrations
- Mobile technology package for schools
- Covid screening and testing plan

The monthly services provided were in the following areas:

- Data Integration, Aggregation, Software, and Maintenance
- Logistical Planning and Maintenance
- Resource Distribution and Maintenance
- Planned Binax Administration
- Covid Policy Oversight, Monitoring, and Reporting
- Program Management
- PCR Testing

**Table 2: Actual and Estimated Expenses for MMCV Contract**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Startup Deliverables	\$5,159,060.00
February	\$1,360,132.60
March	\$1,807,787.50
April	\$1,990,714.00
May	\$1,987,579.00
<b>Year to Date Actual</b>	<b>\$12,305,273.10</b>
June Estimate	\$1,990,714.00
<b>Estimated 2020-21 School Year Total</b>	<b>\$14,295,987.10</b>