



## 2022 REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### PRIORITY 1:

##### Close Achievement and Opportunity Gaps in P-12 and Beyond

- Promote high-quality, standards-aligned instructional materials to support every student
- Increase access to and success in advanced coursework by equitably identifying, enrolling, and supporting students in advanced courses and programs
- Increase access, affordability, and success in higher education for students
- Increase consistent access to high-quality, affordable, and universal preschool education

#### PRIORITY 2:

##### Address Funding and Resource Equity

- Increase the level of funding through the state funding formula
- Adopt a simplified, student-weighted funding formula that is guided by students' different levels of need with weights robust enough to support student needs
- Ensure fairness by providing funding to districts with low property wealth to make up the difference between what the district needs and can contribute based on fiscal capacity

### ABOUT THE REPORT

Tennessee is at an important crossroads – with a momentous opportunity before us. The pandemic disrupted education for all students, but has hit certain students the hardest – the same students who were chronically underserved in Tennessee even before the crisis took hold, due to race, socioeconomic status, or geography. Education leaders across Tennessee have begun to address the impact of COVID on students and schools with the support of over \$4.5 billion in federal and state aid to help close the gaps that were only made worse by the pandemic.

Our State has an opportunity to reassess and redesign systems and policies that work for all students. With this report, *TN25: Mapping our Future Together*, The Education Trust in Tennessee and the Alliance for Equity in Education, aims to equip advocates with research, data, and bright spots to chart a course for education in 2025. It centers on feedback from students, families, educators, advocacy groups, and other education stakeholders to address some of Tennessee's most pressing education policy issues that were laid bare during COVID. This report leverages three different primary data sources, national peer-reviewed research, and Tennessee-specific data as sources, with a specific focus on highlighting and elevating the diverse voices and perspectives of many different stakeholders.

- Ensure that dollars are used well to improve student learning outcomes while providing flexibility to allow districts to respond to their local needs and context
- Report school-level and district-level spending data in clear and accessible ways, including comparative spending data and contextual information

### **PRIORITY 3:**

#### **Increase Educator Diversity and Quality**

- Increase students' access to educators who are fully prepared and supported throughout their career through increased professional development and other means
- Support and incentivize educator preparation programs to recruit and prepare teachers of color
- Target resources to intentionally recruit, hire, and retain a diverse educator workforce
- Report educator diversity data in accessible and actionable ways

### **PRIORITY 4:**

#### **Support Students' Social-Emotional and Academic Development**

- Provide funding for counselors, social workers, and other health professionals
- Increase opportunities for student voice and leadership in decision-making

- Prohibit the use of suspensions and expulsions for minor offenses and ban the use of corporal punishment
- Invest in and build structures for integrated student supports and wraparound services
- Provide professional development and materials for adults on using trauma-responsive and restorative practices, developing and cultivating asset-based and anti-racist mindsets, and developing the skills to integrate social-emotional supports into academics

### **PRIORITY 5:**

#### **Address the Impact of COVID-19 on Student Learning and Well-Being**

- Evaluate ESSER Plans to ensure that districts use evidence-based practices, allocate resources based on student need, and have a clear monitoring plan to ensure that dollars are well spent
- Expand access to mental health services to students in need
- Provide professional learning and high-quality materials to teachers to accelerate student learning and address unfinished instruction
- Incentivize districts to implement additional academic support to students while maintaining access to grade-level content, such as high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring
- Monitor data on student learning and participation in school, identifying trends and deploying resources to address issues that inhibit student success

Learn more at [TheAllianceTN.org/TN25](https://TheAllianceTN.org/TN25).