

Great Things are Happening at 21st Century Academy

HCDE and PEF : Partners for Strong Schools

The Public Education Foundation (PEF) is a local non-profit organization that partners with the Hamilton County Department of Education (HCDE) to improve student achievement by improving public schools. PEF contributes:

- research into best practices
- training for teachers and school leaders
- opportunities for educators to share great ideas
- fundraising to support this work

The HCDE/PEF Leadership Initiative touches every public school in Hamilton County through training for principals and other school leaders. Other comprehensive initiatives have contributed to deep reform work in every high school, every middle school and 16 elementary schools throughout the district. PEF has contributed over \$50 million to Hamilton County schools in the last eight years.

Together, HCDE and PEF are changing education in Hamilton County, and changing students' lives. Learn more at www.HCDE.org or www.pefchattanooga.org.

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Reinventing Secondary Education

Since 2001, 21st Century has benefited from PEF and HCDE's secondary school reform initiatives. With \$23.5 million in funding from the Carnegie Corporation, the Lyndhurst Foundation, the National Education Association Foundation and local donors, these initiatives have focused on helping each school develop its own individual plan to boost student achievement in literacy and math, with special emphasis on improving high school graduation numbers and college enrollment. As a result of these initiatives, students are more engaged in their education, test scores are rising, more students are graduating and more are going on to college.

The Leadership Initiative

Through HCDE and PEF's partnership, the Leadership Initiative provides resources to help principals and teachers become strong leaders of deep change in their schools. Leadership institutes and literacy and math institutes create opportunities for teachers and principals from across the district to work together learning proven strategies for school improvement. Leadership Fellows provides training for aspiring school leaders. With funding by the Annenberg Foundation, the Leadership Initiative is building strong leaders to transform education in Hamilton County.



Public Education Foundation
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pefchattanooga.org



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Working Hard Together: HCDE, PEF and 21st Century

Hamilton County schools and the Public Education Foundation are strong partners in providing training for teachers, helping principals become more effective school leaders, improving literacy in elementary schools, and improving secondary education in Hamilton County. 21st Century has made great use of this partnership:

- Principal **Wendy Jung** and assistant principal **Tina Aslinger** collaborate with other Hamilton County principals in regular meetings and semi-annual leadership institutes.
- **Ms. Jung** and **Ms. Aslinger** and teachers **CarolAnne Coppinger**, **Cynthia Neal**, and **LaShandra Rivers** have gained leadership skills through the Leadership Fellows program.
- As a result of HCDE/PEF's secondary reform initiative, instructional coach **Kristen Childs**, college advisor **Lorie Nash**, and math coach **Bill Bowser** work hard to boost student success at 21st Century.
- Through the high school reform initiative, 21st Century developed a Service Learning Academy.
- 21st Century's successful reading instruction program is reinforced by new teaching methods that were proven highly effective in Hamilton County's elementary reform initiative.
- With funding from PEF, county-wide literacy and math leaders help teachers improve student reading and math skills and integrate those subjects into all areas of study.
- 21st Century teachers have access to a variety of professional development opportunities, including annual learning institutes for math and literacy.

Student Achievement is Climbing

Value-Added (TVAAS) Scores* (3-8th grades)

Reading: A since 2005

Algebra Gateway

57% proficient or advanced, up from 47% in 2003.

15% advanced, an improvement from 5% in 2003.

English Gateway

97% proficient or advanced.

State Writing Assessment Scores

5th Grade: A since 2003

8th Grade: A since 2003

11th Grade: A since 2006

*"Value-added" scores measure student progress within a grade and subject. A value-added score of A indicates exceptional growth, meaning that students in this school made significantly more progress in this subject than students in the average school in the state. Reported scores are 3-year averages.

Leaders and teachers at 21st Century are innovative, committed educators who teach through the Ecological Future Global theme as a magnet school. They work hard to provide an excellent education for their students and eagerly seek better ways to achieve that goal. As a partner to the Hamilton County Department of Education, the Public Education Foundation is proud to support this dedicated group of educators.



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