

Great Things are Happening at Hamilton County High School

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 High School Education

Hamilton County High grew out of and has received \$370,000 from PEF and HCDE's high school reform initiative. Funded by the Carnegie Corporation, this initiative focuses on helping each school develop its own individual plan to boost student achievement in literacy and math. Hamilton County High was created to reach students who had already dropped out of school or were likely to do so. As a result of this initiative, students at Hamilton County High and across the district 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.



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Working Hard Together: HCDE, PEF and Hamilton County High

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

- Principal **Gary Kuehn** collaborates with other Hamilton County principals in regular meetings and semi-annual leadership institutes.
- Teacher **Elizabeth Palmer** has gained leadership skills through the Leadership Fellows program.
- Through HCDE/PEF's high school reform initiative, coordinator **Mechaele Nebben** and a committee of planners received funding to develop a transition strategy for the creation of Hamilton County High; as a result of the initiative, **Ms. Nebben** and college access coordinator **Jenny Wilhoite** continue to work hard to boost student success.
- 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.
- Hamilton County High teachers have access to a variety of professional development opportunities, including annual learning institutes for math and literacy.

Student Achievement is Climbing

2008 Scores

English Gateway:

93% proficient or advanced.

59% advanced, a significant increase from 33% in 2005.

Leaders and teachers at Hamilton County High are innovative, committed educators. 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.

“Hamilton County’s public high schools have made considerable progress in the last five years as measured by a variety of important yardsticks. The challenge now is to build on those reforms and to promote additional improvements in key areas in coming years.”

—*Chattanooga Times Free Press* editorial, September, 2007



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