

DEAR MINNEAPOLIS,

Thank you for your engagement in our work. Thank you for your belief in the promise of education.

Our world is changing as a result of the global pandemic and increasing awareness of existing structural racism and resulting disparities. As we navigate what this means for each of us, with our unique paths, histories, and different levels of positional power and privilege, we stay centered on the schools and families we serve.

We believe in great schools and the inspiring leadership of the school leaders we support. We believe in providing families with information that empowers them to advocate for their children. The work of Great MN Schools matters today, more than ever, and we are making progress toward ensuring more children have access to a great school.

We are proud to work alongside our team, alongside the leadership teams of our portfolio schools, alongside our community partners, and each of you. Together we are changing what is possible for students in Minneapolis—one school at a time, one family at a time—toward a larger goal of changing the systems, policies, practices, and beliefs that stand in the way of educational equity.

This year we surrounded each of the portfolio schools with a variety of supports—from a COVID-19 technology fund to tailored counsel on reopening plans—to ensure students were provided with high-quality learning experiences, despite a global pandemic. And building off of Minneapolis School Finder, we created a set of online resources to support parents and a ‘How to pick a school’ guide so that families can better find a best-fit school for their child.

Great schools defy dominant beliefs and expectations of what’s obtainable for children from low-income backgrounds and children of color. Large scale change can only come once we’ve addressed the belief gap and shown what’s possible. This is a powerful motivator as we focus on our strategy to support and increase the number of schools that work.

At Great MN Schools, we believe that great schools are the cornerstone of a just and thriving community. By focusing on school quality, we’re working to create educational equity and to change the everyday and lived experiences of students in Minneapolis.

In partnering with promising schools—guiding their improvement and growth, strengthening students’ learning experiences, and advancing educational outcomes—we are working toward a goal of 5,000 students attending high-performing schools in the portfolio by 2025. Complementing that is our support for additional schools on their path to becoming high performing—and serving another 5,000 students.

We remain committed to our city and hopeful about the future and the impact of our work. We thank you for your commitment, too, and support as we make progress together.

In community,

Jennifer Stern
 CEO, Great MN Schools

Alberto Monserrate
 Board Chair, Great MN Schools;
 CEO and Co-founder, NewPublica

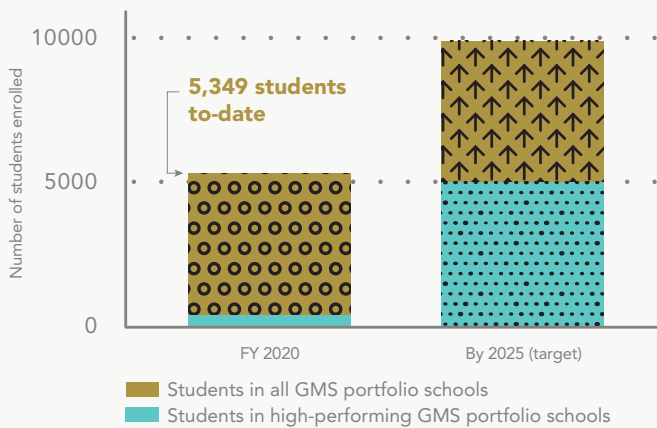




our progress

Toward more schools that work, growing our portfolio of schools & strengthening community partnerships.

Our portfolio of schools is on the path toward becoming high performing



Effectiveness of Great MN Schools team (school survey, 4.75 rating out of a 1-5 scale)



Great MN Schools' portfolio schools had a **noteworthy 11% increase** on TNTP's Instructional Culture Index (6.1 to 6.8—against a national school average of 7.6). **The index is an independently validated predictor of student performance and effective teacher retention**, and is reflective of progress toward schools' success plans.



The Great MN Schools team understands how schools work, and they're focused on helping our school improve.

Helen Fisk, Director, Global Academy

School leaders accessed best-in-class capacity building & strategic interventions



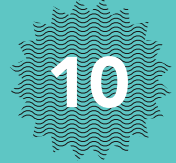
school leaders received **executive coaching**



school leaders, supporting more than 180 teachers, **accessed ANET**



principals and teacher leaders **accessed Relay's Summer Institute**



instructional leaders went through the **Relay Cohort**



schools participated in the Talent-Ready Cohort with EdFuel



schools and **509 teachers** participated in **TNTP's Insight Survey**



charter school boards underwent board training with **CharterSource board development**



board members from 8 schools were part of the **Board Governance Cohort** with Education Board Partners

Good-to-Great progress

Completed the **Strategic Improvement Planning Process** and funded for implementation:



- Hennepin Schools
- Hiawatha Academies
- Hope Academy

New City School completed the Strategic Improvement Planning Process and Friendship Academy of the Arts completed a School Quality Review, as they prepare proposals for implementation funding.



Schools that completed year one of implementation:



- Global Academy
- KIPP MN
- New Millennium Academy
- Northeast College Prep
- Prodeo Academy



Four school networks funded for year two of implementation.

We completed **"focused reviews"** with Bellwether Education Partners to inform due diligence, more deeply understand progress made and support schools in continual improvement as they planned for year two of implementation.

Co-developed and published the 'Talent Playbook'

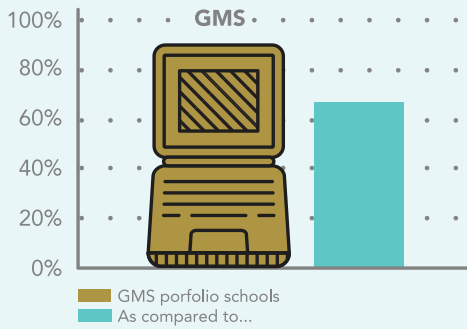
We shared open-source tools and resources of key talent-ready lessons and practices with schools across the city, **particularly single-site schools that don't have dedicated talent leads and those serving greater than 40% of students living in poverty.**

Thirty-plus schools gained access through webinar trainings and/or one-on-one support. Participants reviewed existing talent practices and set clear goals for their next hiring season. See [Talent Playbook](#).

Performance of Great MN Schools portfolio schools during Covid-19

Due to COVID-19, Minnesota schools did not administer spring Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs).

Daily attendance

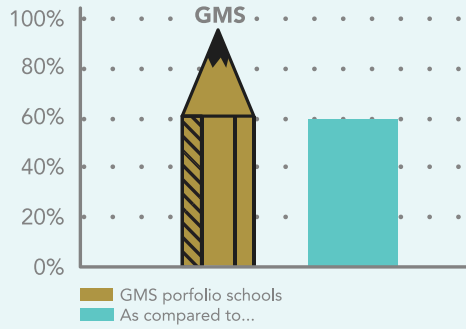


91% daily student attendance during distance learning.

1/3 of Minneapolis public school students were absent or unable to complete school work because they lacked a device or paper packet.

(Pioneer Press, April 2020)

Student engagement

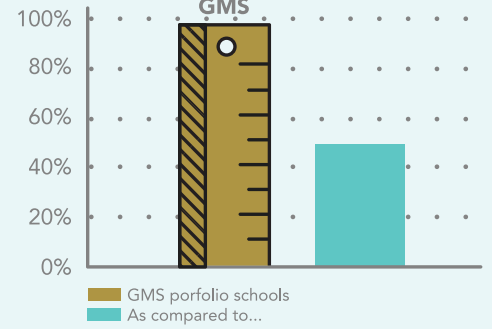


95% of students connected at least weekly with a teacher.

61% of charter school parents reported their children had one-on-one interactions with their teachers at least once per week.

(Education Next, July 2020)

Family engagement

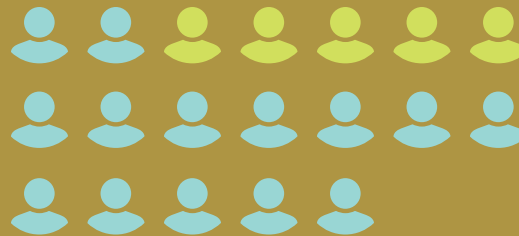


GMS portfolio schools and their teachers got in touch with **98%** of their students and families.

49% of teachers in schools with higher concentrations of low-income students said they were able to get in touch with students/families.

(RAND Survey, June 2020)

19 hires for portfolio schools resulting from our Teach MSP teacher candidate sourcing initiative with TNTP



28% people of color
(4% is state average)

Partnerships toward more schools that work

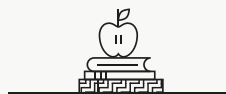
Local community organizations and small businesses that helped distribute copies of the Minneapolis School Finder:

220



Copies of Minneapolis School Finder distributed:

8,500



Visitors who explored [MinneapolisSchoolFinder.org](https://www.minneapolischoolfinder.org):

3,825

