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Council of the Great City Schools

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**Nashville Schools Superintendent**
**Named Urban Educator of the Year**

BOSTON, Oct. 22 –Dr. Adrienne Battle, superintendent of Metro Nashville Public Schools, was named the 2026 Urban Educator of the Year at the Council of the Great City Schools' 70th Annual Fall Conference.

Urban school leaders applauded Dr. Battle during the Council's Excellence in Urban Education Awards Ceremony, where she received the prestigious leadership award.

Four big-city school superintendents competed for the nation's highest honor in urban education leadership, recognizing, in alternating years, an outstanding superintendent and school board member from one of the 81 largest urban public-school systems in the country.

The top prize is presented each year in memory of Richard R. Green, the first African American chancellor of the New York City school system, and businessman Edward Garner, who served on the Denver school board.

A graduate of Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS), Dr. Battle was named interim superintendent in 2019 and permanent superintendent in 2020. She is the first woman and the first MNPS graduate to lead Tennessee's second-largest school district with approximately 81,000 students. Under her leadership, the district earned the highest possible Level 5 TVAAS growth rating in the Tennessee Value Added Assessment System for four consecutive years from 2022 through 2025 and recorded its highest proficiency rates in 2025 on the state's testing program, the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program. The Nashville school system also earned national recognition from the Education Recovery Scorecard for ranking among the nation's leading large urban districts in post-pandemic academic growth.

"Dr. Battle has effectively led MNPS through a period of significant academic improvement and achievement," said Council Executive Director Ray Hart. "She has expanded academic

opportunities, strengthened college and career pathways, and invested in educators and school communities essential for student success. Her leadership has driven academic growth and prepared students for success beyond the classroom. Congratulations to Dr. Battle on this well-deserved honor!"

The other finalists for the 2026 Green-Garner Award were:

- Dr. Fabi Bagula, Superintendent, San Diego Unified School District
- Dr. Alex Marrero, Superintendent, Denver Public Schools
- Dr. Mark Sullivan, Superintendent, Birmingham City Schools

As the recipient of the 2026 Green-Garner Award, Dr. Battle receives a $10,000 college scholarship sponsored by Scholastic to present to a student in Metro Nashville Public Schools. She will also receive a $2,500 college scholarship, along with the other finalists, sponsored by HMH.

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