10 challenges facing Memphis City Schools

As he prepares to take the helm of Tennessee’s largest school district this week, incoming superintendent Dr. Kriner Cash faces a daunting list of problems.

1. Academics
   A recent $528 million dollar bond proposal was rejected by a school board majority. The initiative, which would have funded new schools and renovations, failed to pass by a margin of 52% to 48%, despite widespread support from the community.

2. Facilities
   The 362 buildings in which MCS holds classes vary in condition. While the majority of buildings meet state standards, some are overcrowded and in need of repairs.

3. Corruption
   Poor business practices have led to financial mismanagement and embezzlement.

4. Violence
   Three shootings in Memphis schools in the past month have highlighted the need for increased security measures.

5. Declining enrollment
   The district’s enrollment has dropped significantly in recent years. This trend, coupled with increased costs, has put financial pressure on the school district.

6. Funding
   Memphis City Schools have been facing financial challenges, including cuts to the budget.

7. Teacher quality
   Memphis City Schools have struggled to attract and retain qualified teachers.

8. Poverty and student mobility
   Memphis City Schools have a high proportion of students who are economically disadvantaged and move frequently.

9. Public perception
   Despite efforts to improve the district’s reputation, Memphis City Schools continue to face negative public perception.

10. School closures
    The district has announced plans to close several schools to address financial challenges.