







NAF Future Ready Skills & America Succeeds / Pathsmith™ Durable Skills



Two frameworks, complementary goals. NAF's Future Ready Skills and the Durable Skills framework from America Succeeds / Pathsmith™ were developed independently and for different purposes — NAF's as student-facing competencies built through work-based learning, and Pathsmith's as a labor-market-derived rubric for early-career readiness. Though the two frameworks differ in purpose and level of detail, they describe much of the same ground. Use the table below to see how the two skill sets connect to support student growth.

NAF Future Ready Skill	America Succeeds / Pathsmith™ Durable Skills	Points of Alignment
 <p>Collaboration Working with others by encouraging contributions, providing sensitive feedback, and resolving disagreements to achieve a common goal.</p>	<p>Collaboration Teamwork and connection — the ability to work jointly with others toward shared goals, leveraging diverse strengths and perspectives.</p>	<p>These two skills describe very similar concepts; both are about working well with others — contributing, listening, handling disagreements, and staying focused on a shared goal.</p>
 <p>Communication Organizing and delivering information effectively by adapting strategies to purpose, context, and audience — and listening actively to deepen understanding.</p>	<p>Communication Information exchange and management — the ability to clearly send, receive, and adapt messages across contexts and audiences.</p>	<p>Both skills recognize that communication goes both ways. It's not just about speaking clearly — it's about reading your audience, asking good questions, and making sure you've actually been understood.</p>
 <p>Problem Solving Defining problems, gathering information from multiple sources, generating diverse solutions, and selecting the best option based on a careful evaluation of trade-offs.</p>	<p>Critical Thinking Informed ideas and effective solutions — the ability to analyze information objectively, evaluate options, and make sound decisions.</p> <p>Creativity New ideas and novel solutions — the ability to generate original approaches by thinking divergently and drawing on diverse perspectives.</p>	<p>NAF combines what America Succeeds / Pathsmith™ Durable Skills separates into two skills. Thinking through options carefully is Critical Thinking. Coming up with fresh ideas is Creativity. NAF students do both as part of how they solve problems.</p>

NAF Future Ready Skill	America Succeeds / Pathsmith™ Durable Skills	Points of Alignment
 <p>Initiative & Self-Direction Demonstrating awareness of one’s own abilities, proactively seeking knowledge, maintaining focus, persisting through setbacks, and adapting to new conditions with minimal supervision.</p>	<p>Fortitude Constitution and inspiration — the resilience to persist through adversity and maintain drive in the face of obstacles.</p> <p>Growth Mindset Improvement and aspiration — the belief that efforts and action drive growth, fueling continuous learning and progress toward goals.</p>	<p>Pushing through challenges and persisting despite setbacks reflects Fortitude. Proactively seeking out knowledge and committing to ongoing learning reflects Growth Mindset. Both speak to the same underlying quality; not waiting to be told what to do.</p>
 <p>Planning for Success Setting and prioritizing goals, breaking them into steps, managing time, monitoring progress, and adjusting approach based on self-awareness and honest reflection.</p>	<p>Metacognition Self-understanding and personal management — the ability to reflect on one’s own thinking, set meaningful goals, and regulate one’s learning and behavior.</p> <p>Growth Mindset Improvement and aspiration — the belief that efforts and action drive growth, fueling continuous learning and progress toward goals.</p>	<p>This skill is about knowing yourself well enough to set real goals — and following through. It connects to Metacognition because it requires honest self-reflection. It connects to Growth Mindset because it only works if you believe your effort actually matters.</p>
 <p>Social Awareness Demonstrating integrity, empathy, and situational ethics — recognizing the consequences of one’s actions, balancing personal and others’ needs, and navigating diverse cultural contexts.</p>	<p>Mindfulness Interpersonal and self-awareness — the capacity to be present, attentive to others’ emotions, and aware of the impact of one’s behavior.</p> <p>Character Personal and professional conduct — ethical behavior, accountability, and the consistent alignment of actions with values.</p>	<p>This skill is about how you show up for other people. Being tuned in to how others feel and adapting across different settings reflects Mindfulness. Acting with honesty, integrity, and tact is Character.</p>
<p>(No direct NAF equivalent)</p>	<p>Leadership Directing efforts and delivering results; the ability to influence others, set direction, and take responsibility for the outcomes.</p>	<p>Leadership is one of the more distinct Pathsmith competencies, with elements that surface across several NAF skills without mapping fully to any one of them — for example, taking ownership (Initiative & Self-Direction), navigating group dynamics (Collaboration), and adapting to different contexts (Social Awareness).</p>