**Mentored Industry Projects as Career Preparation:**

Mentored industry projects provide opportunities for students to develop skills and build connections with employer partners while exploring work that happens in the context of their career aspirations. To ensure this experience meets Internship Alternative guidelines, plan projects that include the following:

* Mentored Industry Projects are a minimum of 80 hours. This can be made up of two 40-hour project experiences.
* Industry partners are active, involved mentors who shape the project experience for all students. Mentors are involved throughout project ideation, development, and implementation rather than simply assessing projects at the end of the experience. Students engage with their mentor multiple times for project guidance and assistance.
* Project problems/challenges are provided by an entity outside of the school. This could be a community partner, local business, and/or the industry mentor themselves.
* The Internship Assessment is completed by the assigned mentor for each student involved in the Mentored Industry Project.
* Identify skills of focus and opportunities for connection building throughout the Mentored Industry Project process. Ensure students understand these skills and understand their development throughout the experience.
* Mentored Industry Project is entered in NAFTrack to ensure internship alternative credit for participating students.

**Mentored Industry Projects and Future Ready Skills:**

* NAF’s Future Ready Skills: Collaboration, Communication, Problem Solving, Initiative and Self-Direction, Social Awareness, Planning for Success
* These skills reflect the new internship assessment that will be used in evaluation of mentored industry projects as an internship alternative
* Mentored Industry Projects have the potential to connect with all skills, helping students develop skills and make professional connections to build their network.
* Students receive feedback on these specific skills throughout the evaluation process
* Students should complete the Skills Self-Reflection prior to beginning and after finishing the Mentored Industry Project process
* Help students connect Future Ready Skills to different elements of the project:
  + Example connections:
    - Communication with project mentors in various forms (email outreach, meeting pitches, in-person communication)
    - Collaboration with teammates, teacher facilitators, and project mentors
    - Planning for success through project mapping, creating meeting agendas, assigning roles within the project team