

The NAF Design



The NAF approach is focused on the establishment of NAF academies — **small learning communities within public schools**. These academies are implemented using the NAF design, which includes **four core elements**.



Academy Development and Structure

NAF academies are structured as small, focused learning communities that fit within and enhance high school systems, allowing NAF to become an integral part of a plan for higher achievement at low cost. We promote open enrollment for our academies in order to maximize every student's chance at a successful future. The flexible structure encourages teacher collaboration across subject areas and fosters personalization to meet student, school, district, and state needs and goals.



Curriculum & Instruction

NAF provides rigorous, career-connected curricula that incorporate current industry standards and practices, project-based learning, and performance-based assessment. NAF empowers teachers to expand the classroom boundaries by exposing students to real challenges in the working world and through meaningful connections with industry professionals and the business community.



Advisory Boards

An advisory board is a group of business and community leaders who volunteer to play an active role in developing their future workforce by shaping talent in high school. NAF advisory boards provide an essential bridge between schools and the workplace. Members collaborate with educators to inform curricula, help organize work-based learning activities including internships and promote fundraising. Advisory boards give students the opportunity to build relationships with mentors early and learn from successful adults.



Work-Based Learning and Internships

Work-based learning is an instructional strategy that connects what students are learning in class with the world of work. Through work-based learning activities, businesspeople are connected to a potential talent pool while sharing their own professional expertise. Students learn from real business professionals about careers and industries that they may not otherwise have known about (and the skills needed to be successful in those areas). Work-based learning activities fall on a continuum building from career awareness, to career exploration, then finally career preparation. Activities include career fairs, worksite tours, mock interviews, job shadows, internships, and more.