

NAF Design

The NAF design provides a framework for establishing NAF academies—small learning communities within public schools that connect students to college and career opportunities.

The design brings together four core elements to create meaningful, career-connected learning experiences.



OUR MISSION

NAF solves some of the biggest challenges facing education and the economy by bringing education, business, and community leaders together to transform the high school experience.



Academy Development & Structure

NAF academies are 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.



Advisory Board

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.



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.



Work-Based Learning

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). Workbased 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.

OUR VISION

We envision a world in which all young people have equal opportunity for successful futures.