Emerging Academies
Launch Year Tips & Resources

Congratulations!
Launch Year marks your first year as an official NAF academy with full membership benefits. The tips and resources below will help your team implement the NAF design and build a strong foundation.

Celebrate Your Launch
- Press Release: Prepare a press release to announce the academy's opening to the community.
- Launch Event Ideas:
    - NAF Banner hanging or ribbon cutting ceremony.
    - Continental Breakfast to welcome family and advisory board members.
    - New student & family orientation to provide key information and build excitement.
        - Resources: Event Planning Checklist, Student Orientation Video.

Getting Started: Developing a High-Quality NAF Academy
- Academy Team: Engage a multi-disciplinary team, define roles and hold regular meetings (weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly) with at least three members. Customize the Agenda template.
- Work-based Learning Tracker: Collect and analyze WBL data to ensure equitable student participation.
- Advisory Board Development Plan: Guide board formation, track progress, and use templates.
- Academy Quality Process Key Dates: Monitor deadlines in NAF's annual quality process.
    - Note: AA is optional for Launch Year.
- NAF Academy Standards: Reference essential practices for implementing the NAF design.

Strategize for Success
- Plan Strategically: Schedule a meeting with the Academy Team before school starts.
- Organize the Team: Align on purpose, team roles, and expectations.
- Set up a NAF Account: Provide team access to tools & resources in the Academy Support Hub (ASH).
- Identify Growth Areas: Use the 90-day Launch Strategy to prioritize standards and set SMART Goals.
    - Align goals with the NAF design using the Strategic Action Planning Tool.
    - Track progress using the Action Plan in ASH for coordination with NAF staff.
- Form Sub-committees: Establish groups for targeted focus areas.
- Activate Your Recruitment & Marketing Plan:
    - Use resources: Marketing Your Academy - Action Planning Tips, Student Recruitment Guide, Website Content Guide, Counselor's Packet.
    - Request your FREE custom NAF logo.
- Schedule Ongoing Support: Set recurring coaching sessions with your NAF Portfolio Manager.
- Engage in Professional Development: Attend NAF Next, our signature professional development event, where we welcome and celebrate new academies.
- Get to Know KnoPro: KnoPro is open to all students in grades 9–12; NAF membership **not** required!

NAF Support Team
- Contact NAF's Support Team (help desk) for general inquiries at support@naf.org.