NAF Quality Reviews 2023-2024

Quality Review Plan for 2023-2024

This year all NAF Quality Reviews will be conducted virtually. Virtual Quality Reviews will utilize protocols outlined in the official 2023-2024 Quality Review Guide.

Who Qualifies for a Virtual Quality Review?

Academies meeting both Academy Assessment (AA) score criteria and Distinguished thresholds may qualify to participate in a virtual Quality Review or may be vetted to move up a level without participating in a virtual Quality Review. The decision will be made based on the recency of the academy's last Quality Review, previous report findings, and other stakeholder input. Please reference the Quality Level Flowchart to determine which vetting process will be used for your academy for the 2023-2024 season.

Virtual Quality Review Visit Planning

An agenda for the review must be provided to NAF's review team at least two weeks prior to the review and should include the following components. Academies have the agency to adjust the order of focus groups to best fit their school's schedule.

10 min – **Introduction** (Academy Lead/Admin)
20 min – **Leader Focus Group** (Academy Lead/Admin, Principal and District representative)
20 min – **Teacher Focus Group** (3-5 academy teachers; may include guidance/WBL staff)
30 min – **Student Focus Group** (8-10 academy students; 4-5 seniors, 4-5 sophomore/juniors)
20 min – **Advisory Board Focus Group** (3-5 Advisory Board members)
10 min – **Debrief/Closing** (Academy Lead/Admin & other leaders selected by the academy; 4 max)

Sample Focus Group Questions

Below are sample questions that may be asked during the focus group sessions. Please see the official 2023-2024 Quality Review Guide to view the Quality Review Observation Checklist used by review teams during the visits and for additional information on what to expect after the visit has been completed.

Leaders

1. What is the process students use to enroll in the academy?
2. Describe the academy's processes and activities that help students understand their postsecondary options.
3. What are the academy's best practices?
4. Describe the activities or structures you use to increase academy awareness and build program support.
5. Describe the work-based learning continuum that occurs in each grade and how you track student participation in work-based learning.
6. Please provide a specific example of when you used data to help make a decision or adjust an academy practice.
7. What data points are important to you when monitoring student progress and academy growth?
8. What is the value of the academy to the school?
9. What is your vision for the academy's future?
10. What organizations do you participate in or interact with to represent the academy in the areas of business and workforce development?
11. What partnerships have been developed to support the academy?

Advisory Board
1. Can you describe examples of how you help the academy accomplish its goals?
2. Can you describe how the advisory board is structured and how frequently it meets?
3. Can you describe the process the advisory board uses to update its strategic plan including yearly goals?
4. Describe partnerships the advisory board helped to cultivate between the academy and the community that promote workforce development.
5. Do you provide supports for students and/or teachers? If yes – what are some examples?
6. How do you determine which supports to provide for students and/or teachers?
7. How does the advisory board use data to inform its work?
8. How does the board determine what work-based learning activities to offer?
9. How does the board support the academy teachers' understanding of industry needs?
10. How has the board helped shape the curriculum or program of study for academy students?
11. What are the advisory board's specific goals and objectives for this year?
12. What is the advisory board's role within this academy?

Teachers
1. Describe the academy's processes and activities that help students understand their postsecondary options.
2. What are the academy's best practices?
3. Authentic project learning experiences provide innovative solutions to real-world challenges. Describe authentic project learning experiences available to academy students.
4. Describe how you use industry professionals in your classroom to enhance student learning outcomes.
5. Describe the process students use to choose and enroll in the academy's program of study courses.
6. Describe what work-based learning you've incorporated into your classroom and how it has impacted your students' career development.
7. How do you monitor student progress toward completing the academy's program of study?

Students
1. What has the academy done to help you understand the options you have for after high school?
2. What is the process students use to enroll in the academy?
3. Can you describe any personal connections you've made with other students or adults through your academy membership?
4. Can you describe lessons, activities, or projects you have participated in that are related to your academy's career pathway?
5. Describe the work-based learning activities, such as job shadows, guest speakers, or internships, you've been involved with since you entered the academy.
6. Do you feel a sense of belonging to this academy? If so, what does that mean to you?
7. Have any of you earned industry certifications? If so, which certifications?
8. Have you ever used information or skills you learned from academy experiences in other areas of your life? If yes, please give an example.
9. Have you participated in any project that provided a solution to a real-world problem or challenge? If yes, can you describe the project and how long it took to complete it?
10. Have you taken any dual enrollment, AP, IB and/or AICE courses? If so, which courses?
11. Were there opportunities to interact with industry professionals in your academy classes? If yes, please describe the opportunities.
12. What career options have you explored through your academy?
13. What does it mean to you to be a member of this academy?
14. When you graduate, what are your plans and what steps are you taking to achieve your goals?
15. Why did you choose to enroll in this academy?