



*BE FUTURE
READY*



NAF Academy Standards

2022-2023

ELEMENT 1:

Academy Development & Structure

The academy supports open choice enrollment that produces a student body that reflects the demographics of its community. The students collaborate in program design and decision-making, and the academy team participates in regularly scheduled, professional learning activities. School and district leaders perform the critical tasks and functions required to support, maintain, and sustain fidelity to NAF's educational design at the highest level.

STANDARD 1: STUDENT RECRUITMENT & ENROLLMENT

The academy supports open choice enrollment that maximizes students' access to career and college opportunities and results in academy membership that reflects the school's demographics.

Strategic Actions

- 1.1.a. Open choice enrollment results in academy membership that reflects the school's demographics.
- 1.1.b. Recruitment efforts result in increasing student enrollment each year to meet the threshold criteria.

STANDARD 2: PERSONALIZED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The academy creates a personalized learning environment that is inclusive, promotes student agency, and encourages positive relationships to enhance student well-being and achievement.

Strategic Action

- 1.2.a. The academy fosters a personalized learning environment that promotes student success and attainment of college and career goals.

STANDARD 3: DATA COLLECTION & REVIEW

The academy participates in ongoing review of academy data to enhance academy development and benchmark student progress.

Strategic Actions

- 1.3.a. The academy collects, analyzes, and reports academy and student-level data to inform academy practices and ensure educational equity for students.
- 1.3.b. The academy uses data from various sources to develop an action plan for continuous academy development.

STANDARD 4: ACADEMY LEADERSHIP

Academy leadership is broad-based, strategic, and sufficiently staffed.

Strategic Actions

- 1.4.a. The academy has a designated academy lead with release time or an academy team with clearly defined responsibilities for managing all aspects of the academy program.
- 1.4.b. The academy has a designated staff member to oversee college and career readiness activities.
- 1.4.c. District, school, and academy leaders are ambassadors for the academy.

STANDARD 5: PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

District, school, academy leaders, and advisory board members participate in regularly scheduled professional learning sessions and collaboration meetings.

Strategic Actions

1.5.a. The academy team (of more than three members) participates in common planning or other formal collaboration time to prepare for career-themed integration, student support systems or interventions, and college and career activities across the curriculum and grade levels.

1.5.b. The academy participates in NAF sponsored or other Career Technical Education (CTE) professional learning sessions.

ELEMENT 2: Advisory Board

NAF advisory boards provide an essential bridge between schools, the workplace, and the civic community. Business, higher education, and community leaders volunteer on local advisory boards to help students prepare for college and careers. Advisory board members collaborate with educators to inform curricula, help organize work-based learning activities, and become NAF academy advocates in the community. Through advisory boards, students build relationships with mentors and learn from successful adults.

STANDARD 1: ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP & OPERATIONS

A formally organized advisory board operates with broad-based community representation.

Strategic Actions

2.1.a. Advisory board membership includes at least ten (10) members representing business, industry, government, community, and postsecondary education leaders.

2.1.b. The advisory board creates operational documents, including a strategic plan with clear annual outcomes informed by academy data and by-laws to help the academy grow and sustain academy needs.

STANDARD 2: SUPPORT FOR LEARNING

Advisory board members actively support work-based learning activities, the program of study, and academy program design.

Strategic Action

2.2.a. Advisory board members actively support student learning by securing and coordinating work-based learning experiences, participating in classroom activities or projects, collaborating to enhance curriculum, and providing professional learning opportunities for academy staff.

STANDARD 3: SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Increasing public awareness and civic engagement are vital to long-term academy sustainability. The advisory board increases public awareness and civic understanding of the need for workforce development systems by engaging the K-12 school system in discussions with postsecondary education and civic leaders about building talent pipelines by developing high school career academies.

Strategic Action

2.3.a. The advisory board works to engage the civic community to enact policies that promote and sustain academies as an integral part of the local workforce and economic development systems.

ELEMENT 3: Curriculum & Instruction

The academy offers a program of study that includes any combination of NAFTrack Certified approved courses - within the designated career cluster - and incorporates competency-based assessments. The career-themed content is fully integrated through authentic project learning experiences designed to solve real-world challenges. Teachers receive high-quality, professional learning opportunities in emerging instructional practices to ensure their ability to engage all learners.

STANDARD 1: PROGRAM OF STUDY/INTEGRATION

The academy's program of study offers approved NAFTrack Certified courses that require authentic project learning experiences and a competency-based assessment. Academy course content includes authentic projects, work-based learning activities, and opportunities to build college and career-readiness competencies.

Strategic Actions

3.1.a. The academy has an approved Program of Study.

3.1.b. The academy prepares students to meet all NAF's Program of Study requirements to achieve NAFTrack Certification.

3.1.c. Students demonstrate attainment of career-readiness competencies through authentic project learning experiences.

STANDARD 2: COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Academy coursework with competency-based assessments, authentic project learning experiences, and work-based learning activities prepare students to be college and career ready.

Strategic Actions

3.2.a. The academy intentionally builds students' college knowledge by helping them understand the postsecondary system and culture, research college options, visit college campuses, and navigate issues such as testing, applications, and financial aid.

3.2.b. The academy students experience advanced academics by participating in Advanced Placement (AP), Cambridge, or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and enroll in postsecondary education options through industry certifications and dual enrollment.

3.2.c. Academy students achieve NAFTrack Certification to enhance their college and career readiness.

ELEMENT 4: Work-Based Learning

NAF students experience three phases of work-based learning, beginning with career awareness, progressing to career exploration, and culminating in career preparation activities that include an 80+ hour internship experience. The advisory board develops partnerships with employers and community leaders to support work-based learning activities.

STANDARD 1: WORK-BASED LEARNING PROGRAM

All academy students complete a sequence of work-based learning experiences that culminate with career preparation activities and NAFTrack Certification.

Strategic Actions

4.1.a. The academy ensures that students equitably participate in the entire continuum of worked-based learning opportunities, including career awareness, exploration, and preparation.

4.1.b. The academy's work-based learning (WBL) experiences include a continuum of career awareness, exploration, and preparation activities that build in sophistication, duration, and intensity.

STANDARD 2: INTERNSHIP COMPLETION

The academy develops and sustains a program of high-quality internship experiences for all students.

Strategic Actions

4.2.a. Academy students complete an internship experience.

4.2.b. Academy students complete an internship experience that meets the internship requirements for NAFTrack Certification.