



BE FUTURE  
READY

# Educational Design

NAF's educational design is cost effective and fits within and enhances the public school system. This allows NAF to become an integral part of a district's or state's plan for higher achievement and provides a systemic and lasting strategy for education reform at a low cost. The design includes four essential elements of practice: academy development & structure, curriculum & instruction, advisory board, and work-based learning.

These elements build on each other to ignite students' passion for learning, support school and district priorities, and give businesses the opportunity to shape America's future workforce. It has a proven effectiveness for students at risk of academic failure. For students headed toward dropping out in grade 10, NAF's on-time graduation rate is nearly 20 percentage points higher than non-NAF students in the same districts.



## Academy Development & Structure

NAF originated with the idea of "schools within schools." Today's academies are designed as small communities where students learn in cohorts, allowing them one-on-one attention with teachers and education staff. NAF promotes open enrollment for its 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, and district goals.



## Curriculum & Instruction

NAF provides a rigorous, industry-validated career-themed curriculum that incorporates current industry standards and practices, literacy strategies, and STEM integration. NAF's instructional practices foster cross-curriculum collaboration so students can make connections across subject areas. The NAF curricula is created in partnership with industry professionals and designed around projects that help students acquire valuable workplace skills and see their education as a step toward long-term career options.



## Advisory Board

NAF advisory boards provide an essential bridge between schools and the workplace. Businesspeople and community leaders volunteer on local advisory boards to play an active role in developing their future workforce by shaping talent in high school. Advisory board members collaborate with educators to inform curricula and help organize work-based learning activities. Advisory boards give students the opportunity to build relationships with mentors early and learn from successful adults.



## Work-Based Learning

Work-based learning brings the classroom to the workplace and the workplace to the classroom. NAF's approach to work-based learning is centered on a continuum of work-based learning experiences beginning with career awareness activities, progressing to career exploration activities, and culminating in career preparation activities. Activities include: guest speakers, worksite tours, career fairs, job shadows, informational interviews, mock interviews, and internships.