



BE FUTURE READY

NAF solves some of the biggest
challenges facing education and our economy



In the United States, job forecasts indicate that an increasing percentage of future employment opportunities will require candidates to have some post-secondary education.

Yet we live in a country where a staggering number of high school students drop out, particularly those from minority groups and low-income backgrounds.

At the same time, a significant portion of America's unemployment rate is due to the growing chasm between employee skills and open jobs. America cannot compete in a global marketplace with an undereducated population and underprepared workforce.

As US businesses struggle to find a diverse, well-educated, and future ready workforce, ***NAF has the solution.***

For over 30 years, NAF has been transforming the high school experience for students and teachers.

With the creation of the first academy, NAF defined college and career readiness. The NAF academy—a “school within a school”—marries rigorous academic requirements with career-themed courses and workplace experience.

Teachers collaborate across subjects to create relatable lessons for students, while galvanizing local business leaders who serve as advisory board members.

Business professionals partner with NAF on a national level, as well as join local NAF academy advisory boards and volunteer their expertise inside and outside of school, aware that their companies' success depends on the education and skills of the next generation of professionals. Participation with NAF offers an opportunity to team up with teachers and prepare students to be future ready.

Students access professional mentorship, build career networks, and gain exposure to the business environment. When students are able to apply their learning outside the classroom and interact regularly with business professionals, academic achievement and graduation rates soar.

Students who display risk factors for dropping out learn to trace a solid line from what they study in class to its application in the workplace. Their NAF academy experience ignites their passion for learning and paves the way for future success.

The vital connections students make—across academic subjects and in the professional world—serve them for a lifetime.

Whether you come to NAF as a student, parent, teacher, principal, district superintendent, business professional, or community member, you have the ability to strengthen our country's educational and economic future.



NAF builds lasting relationships with schools and employers

NAF builds lasting relationships with schools and employers to achieve maximum and sustainable impact. Rooted in the corporate world and in education, NAF understands the complexities of both communities and what they can offer each other.

NAF supports schools that engage with business partners who will directly enhance students' learning, both in and outside the classroom. The return on investment is unparalleled. NAF introduces business partners to a diverse talent pipeline of future leaders who are developing the technical, professional, and interpersonal skills these companies need in order to assure their own long-term success.



National Corporate Partnerships

NAF corporate partnerships create a direct line connecting future ready NAF graduates to Fortune 500 and 1000 companies who have committed to NAF as partners in NAFTrack Certified Hiring.

These partners acknowledge that job applicants who, as high school graduates, earned NAFTrack Certification stand a cut above other qualified candidates.

Over the years, these companies have been integral to NAF's growth, serving as collaborators, investors, internship hosts, mentors, scholarship providers, and close advisors to teachers and students at NAF academies nationwide.

They have both witnessed and contributed to NAF's ability to prepare college and career ready graduates by the tens of thousands.

Partnership with Schools and Districts

The NAF academy structure is research-based and aligned with national standards, yet is flexible by design, recognizing that every school, district, and state operates differently and every student has their own learning style. NAF works with educators to ensure that the educational design fits in with school, district, and state priorities, while still upholding NAF's highest standards of excellence and innovation.

Unlike high cost reforms that clash with the structures in place, the NAF educational design builds on existing systems to make them more functional, effective, and sustainable. NAF works closely with schools to set up NAF academies, drawing on the unique strengths that every school possesses and working with the particular challenges they face.

The NAF academy structure includes open enrollment to all students at the school. By joining a NAF academy, students choose a rigorous academic path that is aligned with preparation for employment in growing industries.

Within the NAF academy, a cohort of students progress throughout their four years of high school together, striving for excellence, and seeing the immediate gains and opportunities afforded by their individual and collective efforts.

Curriculum and Instruction

NAF academies infuse science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills into curricula and learning so that our nation's future leaders can compete in the evolving global market. The NAF curricula is created and regularly updated by educators in partnership with industry experts to ensure that lessons have real-world application.

Courses center on real-world projects that enable students to apply lessons from other subject areas, acquire valuable workplace skills, and experience their education as a step toward long-term career options.

As members of NAF's vibrant national network of educators, academy teachers have access to unprecedented support, professional development, and connectivity to colleagues who share what works best.

Industry experts partner with NAF to develop criteria to ensure that students who graduate from a NAF academy and earn NAFTrack Certification possess a strong foundation of relatable skills and knowledge.

Local Advisory Boards

By serving on NAF academy advisory boards, business professionals exert a powerful impact on the future professional workforce. They nourish the talent and potential of our country's most vulnerable high school students and make the critical bridge to careers.

Advisory board members prepare students for opportunities they never knew existed and boost teachers' ability to do their most outstanding work for students. Businesses also expand their own networks and exposure in the community, and this can mean more for their companies' bottom lines.

NAF's continuum of work-based learning begins with career awareness activities, progresses to career exploration, and culminates with career preparation, which includes an internship.

Advisory board members are an integral part of the work-based learning experience. They speak in classrooms, host job shadows, worksite tours, and conduct mock interviews, among other activities. Through regular interaction with NAF academy students, advisory board members are able to take an active role in shaping the student learning experience.

NAF graduates are college, career, and future ready

NAF graduates are different because their education is different. For employers, colleges, and universities, graduation from a NAF academy will help determine students' eligibility for college credit, scholarship opportunities, and candidacy for entry-level positions.

The return on investment in NAF academies for students, schools, local businesses, and corporate partners is significant, and all amount to a stronger future.





STUDENTS

Students who complete four years at a NAF are taking control of their education and career paths. The majority of NAF students are minorities living below or near the poverty line. Many will be the first in their family to attend and graduate from college. Their connections to mentors and professional networks allow them to discover their aptitudes and bring them to life in an industry that needs their specific talents and exceptional drive. Their education and increased earning potential can change their financial trajectories for generations.



SCHOOLS

Schools and districts that use the NAF educational design are transforming and revitalizing high school education. Graduation rates and academic achievement increase, while teachers gain the satisfaction that comes from working at the top of their game and seeing their students' engagement increase with full support as their students embark on a path to success.



BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS

Business professionals who lead local and national initiatives, serve on advisory boards, and volunteer with NAF academies, are at the forefront of workforce development. Involvement with NAF offers a unique and well-structured opportunity to cultivate and recruit diverse talent who come to the workplace with a solid foundation in technical, professional, and interpersonal skills.



COMMUNITIES

Communities that support NAF academies are energized by the flow and exchange of ideas and interactions between businesses and schools. As young people are empowered to participate in society beyond their obligations as students and citizens, communities thrive with greater interest and economic participation from these emerging leaders.

What makes NAF exceptional is not any one piece of the puzzle, but the whole system. NAF aligns the goals of families, educators, and employers who want to have a defining, positive impact on young people's lives and assure success over the long term.

NAF graduates are ready to contribute to the nation's most pressing challenges. *Are you?*

In order for students to be college, career, and future ready, the workplace must also be the learning place. Schools must be supported so that they can provide quality educational experiences to students.

Join NAF in opening doors for students whose potential is boundless and vital to our country's future.



START

Start a NAF academy at your school or in your district. NAF is committed to innovation and excellence. As a member of the national network of NAF academy educators, you will find vast resources to inspire and motivate students, engage your community, and strengthen high schools.

PREPARE

Prepare the future workforce by volunteering with a local NAF academy or joining an advisory board. Enjoy the personal satisfaction that comes with knowing you made a difference in someone's life by serving as a mentor, interview coach, curriculum advisor, job shadow host, or internship provider. NAF alumni have pointed to their work-based learning experiences, particularly their internships, as formative in their lives.

PARTNER

Partner with NAF at the local or national level and watch how your ability to make big and lasting changes multiplies exponentially. Our corporate partners leverage the power of NAF's extensive network by making NAF a part of their corporate responsibility strategy, and further, they recognize that their contribution to and investment in NAF is an investment in the future of their companies. Champions at the top of several major US companies lead nationwide initiatives to support NAF academies and are also represented on local advisory boards at NAF academies across the country. They ensure impact at the individual level and in education systems statewide and throughout our nation.

JOIN

Join Fortune 500 and 1000 companies as a NAFTrack Certified Hiring partner. These companies give special consideration to NAFTrack certified graduates—each of whom has demonstrated that they are college, career, and future ready. NAFTrack Certification is hard-earned and lessons run deep for these NAF graduates. All have proven themselves to be outstanding candidates for any professional endeavor.

DONATE

Donate to NAF and support the innovations and programming that ensure NAF students have a high quality, transformative educational experience. Your financial support helps open doors for our future leaders to realize their full potential.

Since 1982, NAF has partnered with existing high schools in high-need communities to enhance school systems at a low cost by implementing NAF academies. NAF has grown from one Academy of Finance in New York City to hundreds of academies across the country focusing on growing industries.

Whether they come from education or business, those who have helped to build NAF, who have worked with and know our students, understand the wealth of perspective, talent, and experience that NAF graduates bring.

Their partnership with NAF is life changing. Yours can be too.

We can fill the skills gap and help end America's dropout crisis. And we won't stop until it's done.

Will you join us?

naf.org



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.

Our Vision

NAF envisions a world in which all young people have equal opportunity for successful futures.

NAF is a national network of education, business, and community leaders who work together to ensure high school students are college, career, and future ready.



naf.org