

NAF's Academy of Health Sciences addresses the critical achievement gap in STEM fields by developing a pipeline of students prepared to pursue health-related degrees and professions in one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy.

### HISTORY AND IMPACT

Launched in the 2011-2012 school year, the NAF Academy of Health Sciences (AOHS) addresses the stark need to better prepare and train future healthcare professionals by providing young people with a STEM-infused education using healthcare career paths as a vehicle for providing relevance. Today, there are 18,836 students in 84 academies across 17 states preparing for careers in the healthcare industry.

### CURRICULUM

AOHS curricula introduces students to health career possibilities through a series of career exploration courses. All courses use project-based learning techniques with an emphasis on strengthening literacy, project management, leadership, and team building skills while fostering creativity and innovation. The curricula is vetted by industry professionals to ensure content is current and relevant.

NAF courses include: Health Careers Exploration, Foundations of Anatomy and Physiology I & II, Biotechnology, and Global Health. NAF has partnered with Project Lead the Way (PLTW) and Paxton/Patterson to offer supplemental curriculum options for Academies of Health Sciences at an added cost. Project Lead the Way's Biomedical Science program offers courses in Principles of Biomedical Science, Human Body Systems, Medical Interventions, and Biomedical Innovation. The Paxton/Patterson Health Science Education curriculum offers a variety of integrated units including: Biomedical Engineering, Biotechnology R&D, Clinical Lab Practices, Dentistry, Emergency Medical Technician, Environmental Health & Safety, Forensics, Health Information Management, Medical Imaging, Mental Health,

Nursing, Ophthalmology, Pharmacology, Speech Therapy, Sports Medicine, Therapeutic Services, and Veterinary Medicine. Academies may offer specialized courses, state-level certifications, special projects, or early college programs.

### COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

In addition to studying career-focused curricula and working on collaborative projects, AOHS students gain critical career knowledge through a series of work-based learning activities both inside and outside of the classroom including job shadowing events, mock interviews, résumé writing workshops, and the culminating experience—a paid internship. Local business partners work with educators to provide these opportunities to round out students' education. By serving on advisory boards and as mentors, business partners make the important real world connection for students, helping them understand the connection between their education and future success.

NAFTrack Certification, NAF's student certification assessment system, validates successful course completion, projects, and internships. By receiving a passing score on end-of-course exams and satisfactory scores on culminating project and internship assessments, students earn NAFTrack Certification - signifying to post-secondary institutions and employers that they are both college and career ready. With this credential, graduates can benefit from NAFTrack Certified Hiring, a new initiative with some of America's top companies that gives special consideration to these graduates for job opportunities and other career support. Select AP, IB, Cisco, and dual enrollment courses or third party curricula qualify for NAFTrack Certification.

Graduates of NAF academies complete college faster, earn more, and have stronger ties to their communities than their peers. NAF's 97% senior graduation rate is a testament to this effort.



From 2016-2026, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employment of healthcare occupations will grow 18%, adding about 2.3 million new jobs. Healthcare occupations are projected to add more jobs than any of the other occupational groups. This projected growth is mainly due to an aging population, leading to greater demand for healthcare services.



**18,836**  
STUDENTS



**84**  
ACADEMIES

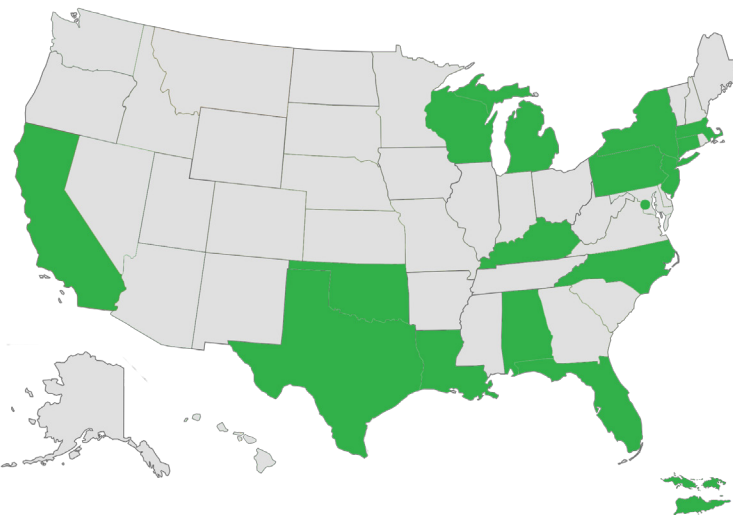
**17**

## STATES

*incl. DC and the US Virgin Islands*

highest concentration of academies

- California **22**
- Florida **19**
- North Carolina **8**
- Texas **8**
- New York **5**



**45**

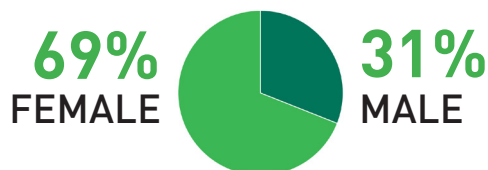
## DISTRICTS

highest concentration of academies

- 8** Dallas
- 6** Fresno
- 6** Miami-Dade
- 4** Broward County
- 4** Orange County

**914** ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

## NAF STUDENTS



96% of students are females and/or ethnic minorities


- 43%** Hispanic/Latino
- 31%** Black/African American
- 14%** White
- 9%** Asian
- 2%** Other/Multi-racial
- <1%** Native American/Alaska Native
- <1%** Pacific Islander


**76%** Low-Income Students  
*based on eligibility for free & reduced price lunch*

**18%** English Language Learners

## OUTCOMES

 **99%** of seniors graduated

 **92%** college-bound graduates

 **32%** seniors who had an internship