

NAF Advisory Board Insights and Recommendations

NAF advisory boards provide an essential bridge between schools and the workplace. Representing a coalition of various community- and business-based volunteers, advisory boards play an active role in developing our future workforce by shaping talent in high school. Advisory board members collaborate with education partners to provide leadership, leverage relationships, inform curricula, organize meaningful work-based learning activities, and create mentorship opportunities for students.

To support advisory boards and amplify impact on student outcomes, NAF and the KPMG Data Citizens with Purpose team analyzed several characteristics of advisory boards and their relationship to academy quality and internship placement. Below are some initial insights and recommendations from this analysis, as well as an overview of resources we are developing to support advisory board and academy partnerships.



Local Academy Support is Critical

Academies with boards solely focused on serving their single academy place more internships in comparison to other advisory board structures (e.g. boards serving multiple academies on a high school campus, district boards, regional boards, etc.). Although single serving advisory boards are effective in securing internships, we find that regional, district, and high school advisory boards are an effective way to leverage community resources. We recommend incorporating sub-committees or members focused on individual academy needs in the larger advisory boards to augment impact.

↑ 36% On average, single serving academies result in 36% more internships.



Sharing the Workload Increases Impact

Our findings suggest that advisory boards with a greater number of engaged members are better able to implement action plans and serve their academies. The more active the member, the stronger the leadership on specific projects and committees, resulting in focused, sustainable support.

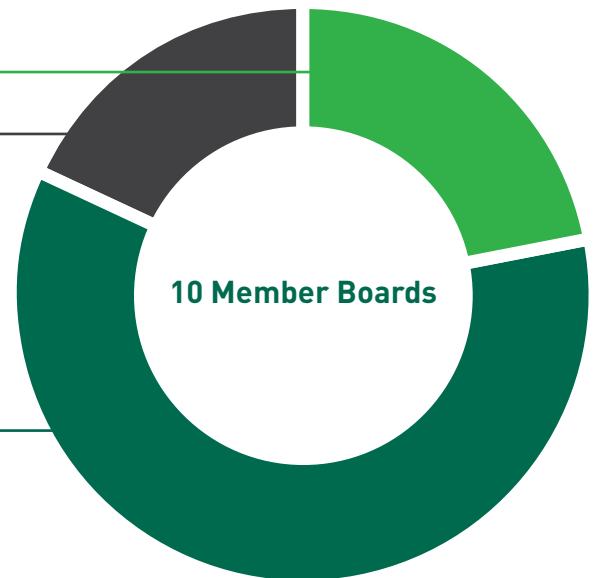
Larger boards also have wider networks to cultivate valuable work-based learning opportunities for students and Academy staff. Our recent analysis found that **37% of boards serving Model or Distinguished academies have 12 to 16 members**. In the past, NAF recommended at least 10 members per advisory board, and we recommend increasing the number of members based on this analysis.

Only 20% of Boards with 10 Members are Performing at the Highest Quality Level

Model/Distinguished

Member/Under Review

Certified



Upcoming NAF Resources

NAF is developing new strategies and tools to better support our advisory board network based on the findings above, including:

- Clearer explanations of the roles and responsibilities of advisory boards and their members;
- Advisory board orientation and leadership modules;
- A deep-dive into the available academy data and how to leverage these insights in action planning;
- A virtual action planning series for advisory board teams to plan together while sharing with and learning from other advisory board teams;
- Topic-based tutorial videos, webinars, and informal chats delivered collaboratively with advisory board leaders; and
- Strategies for connecting national corporate partner employees to local advisory boards and advisory board members with potential organizational partners.