Prospective NAF academies participate in a structured Year of Planning (YOP) process guided by experienced NAF portfolio managers. The YOP process involves activities to assess and align high school programs and resources with the standards of practice of NAF’s educational design.

The YOP involves three phases: Team Building & Leadership, Academy Development, and Launching & Monitoring to ensure the appropriate training for all stakeholders who are responsible for implementing the NAF educational design. Academy design teams adjust the design to fulfill the school and community goals and accommodate district requirements.

In the YOP, academies access all of NAF’s online platforms and resources and create action plans to pace themselves through the guided process with ongoing progress checks in preparation for the YOP graduation visit.

**Personalized Support**
- Portfolio manager assigned to guide academies through the YOP process.
- Academy design teams get technical assistance with online platforms.
- Marketing and communications resources for publicity, branding, and marketing.

**Resources**
- Year of Planning Guidebook
- Industry-validated curriculum
- Academy Support Hub with implementation resources for NAF’s network
- NAFTrack Certification to monitor student progress

**Professional Learning**
- YOP orientation sessions at NAF’s annual conference, NAF Next.
- Personalized training during two site visits.
- Ongoing virtual coaching on gap analysis using YOP planning and assessment tools.
- YOP guidebook with rubrics and self-guided prompts to direct academy development and build leadership capacity.

**And More!**
- Affiliation with 620 academies in 36 states, national corporate partners, and business leaders across the country.
- Member of NAF’s network after YOP graduation and receipt of official NAF banner.
- YOP fees cover the application and all YOP resources and services.