

What's Happening in the Zone

NORTHSIDE ACHIEVEMENT ZONE



From the Northside to the Campus, 2009. High school graduates from the Northside attending college.

Minnesota has one of the largest achievement gaps in the nation between African-American and white children. In fact, the gap on fourth grade reading scores is the second largest in the nation (*Education Trust's Education Watch Minnesota Fall 2006*). There is no place where the consequences of this achievement gap hits harder than in North Minneapolis.

Creating a Culture of Achievement

Inspired by the success of the Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) in New York City, Minneapolis community organizations began gathering in late 2007 to form a collaborative effort that could translate and apply the promise of the HCZ to the Northside. Today, after two years of collaborative visioning and planning, and buoyed by a declining rate of violence, the Northside Achievement Zone is operational and striving to guarantee opportunities, support and education for all children growing up within its boundaries.

Our goal is to ensure that all of the children in the Zone are ready for college. In order to achieve such an ambitious goal, the collaborative has defined three core strategy areas:

Educational Impact— By identifying best-practices for educating low-income, minority students and advocating for their implementation in schools serving kids in the Zone, NAZ will eliminate disparities and increase overall educational achievement.

Family Engagement— By bringing much needed resources and opportunities directly to families living in the Zone, NAZ will engage families in their

children's success, thus creating a culture of achievement and hopeful expectation for all youth.

Strategic Coordination— By building a coalition of existing area service providers, NAZ will revolutionize the way non-profits and community organizations work together and refocus their efforts around clear outcomes for families and children in the Zone.

On the Ground with Family Engagement

We are connecting families in the Zone with NAZ opportunities and to promote a culture of achievement utilizing these key strategies:

Door-to-door Engagement— We will bring the opportunities, support, and achievement messages directly to families utilizing a trained "Engagement Team" of paid neighbor-leaders.

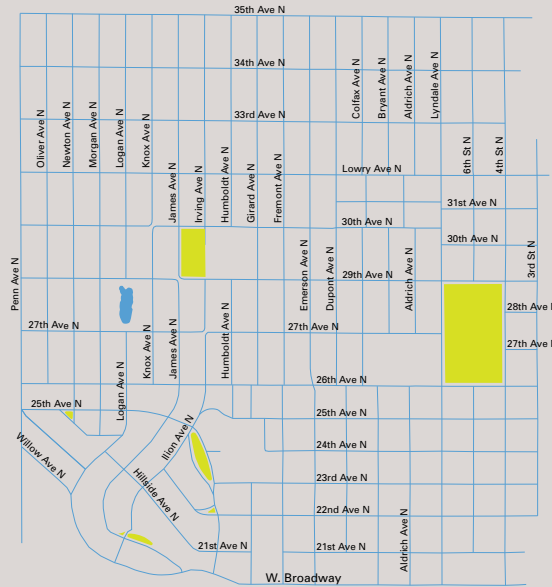
Leadership Development— In order to develop a network of support, we will train a base of "NAZ Connectors" strategically located within the Zone with an empowerment curriculum. Through this strategy, we will create a geographically targeted network of leaders on the ground in the Zone all working together to implement the goals of NAZ.

Through these efforts, we will reach one family at a time through an intensive engagement process and we will connect all of these points of engagement together, to build on each success and bring the effort to scale in our target area.

For more information about each of the strategic areas within NAZ, call 612-521-4405 or go to www.northsideachievement.org.



NAZ GEOGRAPHIC ZONE



NAZ Framework Model

We know that each of the three tracks in our initiative need to operate, producing their own strategic outcomes, in order to comprehensively change the micro-climate in the Zone related to educational achievement. In addition, it is critical that each track link with the others to inform, connect, and create a cohesive change strategy with an education focus.

EDUCATION IMPACT

We will partner to reform how institutions educate kids in the Zone.

Partner schools have high expectations and adopt NAZ-identified best practices to ensure effective classroom teaching and learning.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

We will connect families in the Zone with opportunities and promote a culture of achievement.

Active leadership in neighborhood will increase, parents will be knowledgeable about ways to support achievement and will expect kids to go to college.

STRATEGIC COORDINATION

Organizations serving kids in the Zone will align and connect to effectively support educational achievement.

Opportunities are high-quality, aligned, and targeted to support achievement; brought to scale to meet key needs; and better coordinated.

Every child
in the Zone
college-ready

NAZ Leadership & Key Partners

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