NAZ OVERVIEW

The Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ) Promise Neighborhood is building a culture of achievement in a geographic zone in North Minneapolis so that all children graduate college ready. Our purpose is to end generational poverty in North Minneapolis, using education as a lever.

To achieve this bold goal, we operate within three pillars:

Pillar I
Partnering with parents to inspire belief and build the skills needed to support their children's academic success, and to lead a community transformation.

Pillar II
Create an effective education pipeline from early childhood to college.

Pillar III
Support whole-family success so children show up ready to learn.

Working with NAZ, two Northside generations are now lifting themselves out of poverty—and they are backed by a whole community of support.

FAMILIES ARE LEADERS

NAZ is turning the social service model on its head. Families are shifting from perennial recipients of services to leaders of a culture shift toward a college-going community on the Northside.

We believe a culture of achievement can only be built from within the community—one family at a time. Parents partner with NAZ at every step in their child's path to college:

• Ongoing one-on-one support from their NAZ Connector "family coach" to set and reach goals to support college readiness through Achievement Plans.

• Specialized support from NAZ Navigators and our partner organizations to stabilize their households through: housing services, career & finance training and behavioral health counseling.

• Family Academy empowerment and education classes.

NAZ families build a culture of achievement in their own home that supports their children on a path to college. We target the hardest-to-reach parents who have not traditionally been involved with promoting academic success in their community and partner with them one on one. As we scale up to enroll more than half of the families within our Zone, their individual successes become the culture of the community, leading population-level change.

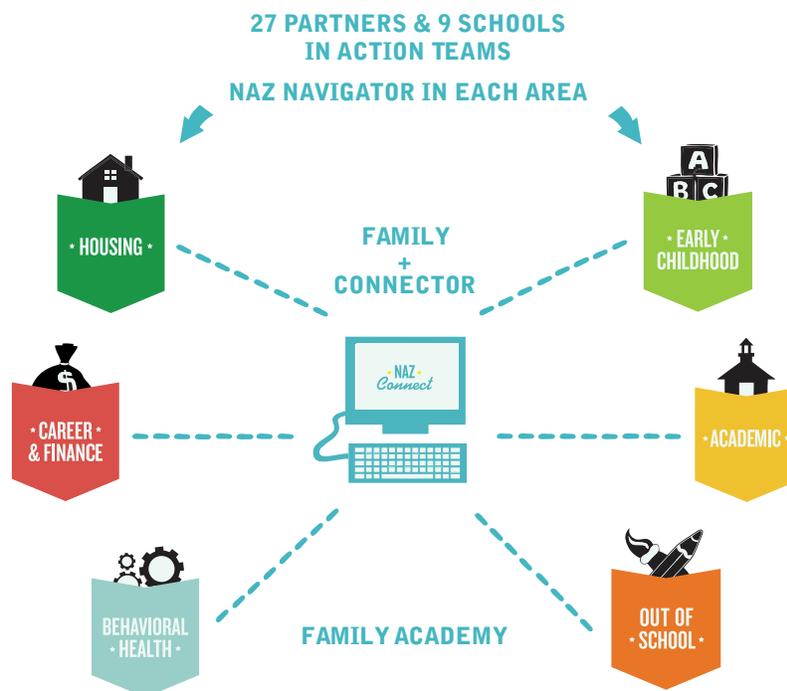# COLLECTIVE IMPACT & A COORDINATED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS

NAZ is built on a "collective impact" model— building social change through collaboration with partner organizations that are all focused on the goal of preparing scholars to graduate college ready. NAZ serves as a "backbone" organization for a collaboration that is driving effective practice across partner organizations. All NAZ partner organizations are shifting toward a culture of evidence-based practice following NAZ Solution Plans.

Our partners include nine area schools, 27 nonprofit "anchor partners," and a host of referral organizations. We operate as one integrated program across partners with NAZ families at the center. Today, our nonprofit partners are working together to build comprehensive evidence-based plans called "NAZ Solution Plans." Together we provide families with an unbroken continuum of

best-practice supports from pre-natal through college. Each of these supports builds toward measurable academic outcomes for children.

NAZ is a data-driven organization, focused on clear and measurable outcomes at each stage in a child's life. Each NAZ partner uses our shared online achievement-planning and data collection system, called NAZ Connect. The NAZ Connect tool serves as a centralized location for family goal Achievement Plan documents. These Achievement Plans are supported across multiple partners within the NAZ system.

To foster a public policy context that will allow our strategies to succeed, NAZ engages funders and policy-makers with key information about barriers and opportunities. This helps line up resource systems with what is working with families.

27 PARTNERS & 9 SCHOOLS
IN ACTION TEAMS
NAZ NAVIGATOR IN EACH AREA

HOUSING

EARLY CHILDHOOD

FAMILY + CONNECTOR

CAREER & FINANCE

NAZ Connect

ACADEMIC

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

FAMILY ACADEMY

OUT OF SCHOOL

THE NAZ MODEL
DRIVING REPLICABLE COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Our vision is to transform the NAZ geographic Zone using a comprehensive community development systems-change approach. Today we are building a replicable continuum of evidence-based best practices to support families from cradle to career. Each strategy will deliver measurable progress toward the goal of eradicating educational and social disparities— thereby spurring economic growth for the entire region.

Design:
NAZ works with our partners and our evaluators from the University of Minnesota to design NAZ Solution Plans that outline coordinated, best-practices in the areas of:

- Early Childhood Education
- Academic Out-of-School Time
- Mentoring
- Behavioral Health Supports
- Career Training and Financial Education
- Housing Stabilization
- College Success

These Solution Plans are being designed and implemented at our partner sites with the support of additional tools and communications.

Ease of Implementation:
Our partners will provide a feedback loop on ease of implementation for each NAZ Solution Plan. These will be adjusted for replication across organizations with different missions, different management and staffing structures, etc.

Quality:
We will use data to measure the progress of each NAZ-enrolled individual (parent and scholar) and evaluate each program. Real-time adjustments will be made to ensure we are tracking toward goals.

Proven Outcomes:
Our success is gauged by measurable outcomes for children and families. Working with our evaluation teams from Wilder Research and the University of Minnesota, we will show measurable improvements over time in closing the achievement gap. Our long-term outcomes include:

- Increase kindergarten readiness from 29% to 80%
- Reading at grade-level by third grade from 27% to 75%
- Grade-level math proficiency by eighth grade from 24% to 70%
- Graduating on time, prepared for college from 54% to 80%

Package for Replication:
Our Solution Plans are intentionally designed and tested to be easily adopted by a variety of service provider organizations.

Our long-term goal is to support the introduction of evidence-based practices and family-driven change strategies as the norm across the country. This will accelerate closing of the achievement gap exponentially and spawn real urban renewal in unprecedented ways.