

Northside Achievement Zone

Minneapolis, Minnesota



2011 Promise Neighborhood Implementation Grantee

Mission

The Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ) Promise Neighborhood exists to end poverty in North Minneapolis through education. We work to ensure all youth graduate from high school college-ready. NAZ utilizes results-based, high-accountability strategies to: engage parents and strengthen their ability to support achievement; improve schools and the educational experience within a continuum of support services; and coordinate effective whole-family support programs. Over the next 10 years, it is projected to reach about 2,500 families, approximately 6,250 children.

Early Results

NAZ has built out an entire “cradle to career” ecosystem of supports for children and families using evidence-based practices. The progress of every young scholar, family, and program is closely monitored to ensure they are effectively reaching clear goals.

- NAZ scholars are more likely to be kindergarten ready (59 percent vs. 35 percent for entire Zone).
- NAZ families were significantly more likely to have a child in childcare or preschool compared to non-NAZ enrolled families (42 percent vs. 14 percent for entire Zone).
- 148 scholars with the highest needs received one-on-one coaching from an academic navigator.
- Parental involvement increased, with 77 percent of active participants in the NAZ Family Academy proficient in parenting knowledge and behaviors at the end of the NAZ Family Academy course compared with 24 percent of control group members.
- 55 percent of scholars made a year’s or more growth in reading after four months of participation in NAZ after-school and summer learning programs.
- In 2013, one-third of NAZ families who faced homelessness or high mobility were stably housed, and in 2014 55 NAZ parents secured employment with the help of NAZ.

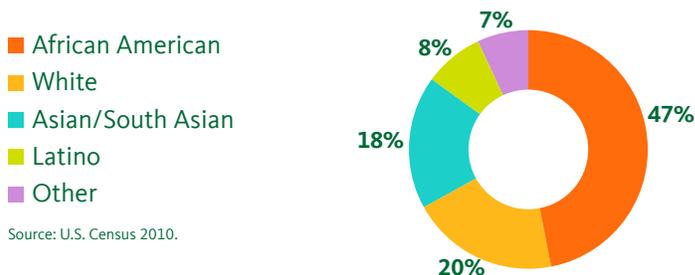
Timeline for the Work

2011	2012	2014	2015
Serve pilot families and their children.	Incorporate 24 partners and 217 families, and upgrade capabilities for complex data analysis.	Provide high-quality academic expanded learning programming to 450 youth.	Enroll 1,000 families with 2,500 children, nearly half the Zone.

Community Served

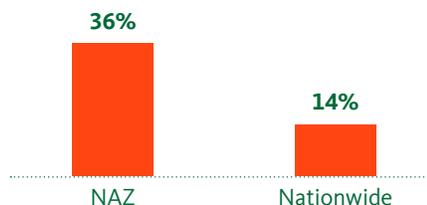
The Northside Achievement Zone is a 13-by-18-block area in North Minneapolis. It is home to 14,798 people and approximately 5,615 children. Northside residents struggle with poverty, unemployment, failing schools, and high rates of violence, all of which impact children’s development and achievement. In tests of kindergarten readiness in 2010, only 29 percent of entering kindergartners living in and near the Zone met literacy benchmarks. Only 28 percent of children were at or above grade level in reading.

Neighborhood Composition



Source: U.S. Census 2010.

Residents at or below the Federal Poverty Line



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2006–2010 (5-year estimate), Table C17002. US Census Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The Zone is the aggregation of 18 block groups, five of which are only partially within the Zone.



Partners

Northside Achievement Zone

Ascension Catholic School

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities

Bolder Options

Breakthrough Twin Cities

Bright Water Montessori School

Cookie Cart

Elizabeth Hall International Elementary School (MPS)

Emerge Community Development

Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery

Juxtaposition Arts

KIPP: Stand Academy

Kwanzaa

LaCreche Early Childhood Centers, Inc.

Minneapolis Community and Technical College

Minneapolis Public Housing Authority

Minneapolis Public Schools Early Childhood Education

Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency

Nellie Stone Johnson Elementary School (MPS)

New Horizon

North Senior Academy (MPS)

NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center

Northside Child Development Center

Patrick Henry High School (MPS)

Phyllis Wheatley Community Center

Plymouth Christian Youth Center (PCYC)

Project for Pride in Living (PPL)

PYC Arts & Technology High School

Seed Academy and Harvest Preparatory School

Sojourner Truth Academy Elementary School

The Family Partnership

The Family Partnership

Think Small

Twin Cities RISE!

University of Minnesota

Urban Homeworks

Washburn Center for Children

Way to Grow

YMCA Nellie Stone Johnson Beacon

YWCA of Minneapolis

What Is a Promise Neighborhood?

Promise Neighborhoods represent a 20-plus year commitment by local leaders to create communities of opportunity that allow children to learn, grow, and succeed. Based on the operating principles of the Harlem Children's Zone, Promise Neighborhoods build partnerships between schools, community organizations, local businesses, and community members to wrap children in high-quality, coordinated health, social, community, and educational support from cradle to career.

About the Promise Neighborhoods Institute at PolicyLink

The Promise Neighborhoods Institute at PolicyLink (PNI) helps build and sustain Promise Neighborhoods to ensure children are healthy, succeed in school, reach their full potential, and that families and neighborhoods support the healthy development, academic success, and well-being of their children.

PNI's system of technical assistance and disciplined approach moves communities from talk to action by:

- accelerating local leaders' ability to achieve results;
- building evidence that cradle to career systems are working across America; and
- supporting leaders' efforts to scale and sustain results.

From Promise Neighborhood Leaders

“From early on in receiving the Promise Neighborhood grant, PNI has been a supportive, capacity-building resource for our effort. We have received tangible, action-oriented assistance with resource development, strategies to implement solutions, and capacity support to use data to drive results. Most importantly, PNI has been an organizing force in pulling our individual efforts together into a national movement.”

*—Michelle Martin, Chief Operating Officer,
Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ)*

www.promiseneighborhoodsinstitute.org

www.policylink.org

Promise Neighborhoods Results & Indicators

The Promise Neighborhoods program is one of the most results-based and data-driven efforts in America focused on collective impact. Every Promise Neighborhood works toward making progress on the same 10 results and 15 indicators through a mix of solutions and strategies that include families, programs, policies, and systems.

Table 1. Education Results & Indicators

Results	Indicators
Children enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # and % of children birth to kindergarten entry who have a place where they usually go, other than an emergency room, when they are sick or in need of advice about their health. • # and % of three-year-olds and children in kindergarten who demonstrate at the beginning of the program or school year age-appropriate functioning across multiple domains of early learning as determined using developmentally appropriate early learning measures. • # and % of children, from birth to kindergarten entry, participating in center-based or formal home-based early learning settings or programs, which may include Early Head Start, Head Start, child care, or preschool.
Students are proficient in core academic subjects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # and % of students at or above grade level according to State mathematics and reading or language arts assessments in at least the grades required by the ESEA (third through eighth and once in high school).
Students successfully transition from middle school grades to high school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance rate of students in sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth grade.
Youth graduate from high school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduation rate.
High school graduates obtain a postsecondary degree, certification, or credential.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # and % of Promise Neighborhood students who graduate with a regular high school diploma and obtain postsecondary degrees, vocational certificates, or other industry-recognized certifications or credentials without the need for remediation.

Table 2. Family and Community Results & Indicators

Results	Indicators
Students are healthy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # and % of children who participate in at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily. • # & % of children who consume five or more servings of fruits and vegetables daily; or possible third indicator, to be determined (TBD) by applicant.
Students feel safe at school and in their community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # and % of students who feel safe at school and traveling to and from school, as measured by a school climate needs assessment; or possible second indicator, TBD by applicant.
Students live in stable communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student mobility rate; or possible second indicator, TBD by applicant.
Families and community members support learning in Promise Neighborhood schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For children birth to kindergarten entry, the # and % of parents or family members who report that they read to their child three or more times a week. • For children in kindergarten through the eighth grade, the # and % of parents or family members who report encouraging their child to read books outside of school. • For children in the ninth through twelfth grades, the # and % of parents or family members who report talking with their child about the importance of college and career; or possible fourth indicator TBD by applicant.
Students have access to 21st century learning tools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # and % of students who have school and home access (and % of the day they have access) to broadband Internet and a connected computing device; or possible second indicator TBD by applicant.