



## What is NAZA?

- NAZA is an expanded learning system for Metro Schools' middle and high school students after school and in the summer. It offers both an After Zone and a Summer Zone.
- NAZA targets students for whom other programs are not accessible.
  - NAZA is offered **at no cost** to families; **transportation** is provided.
  - Students get a daily federally-subsidized **meal or snack**.
  - NAZA conducts **outreach to Juvenile Court**-involved families and received delinquency prevention funding through the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth.
  - **Coordinated scheduling, marketing, recruitment, transportation and student tracking** across the network increases access for students and efficiencies for the providers.
- NAZA, a **partnership** among the Nashville Public Library (NPL), Metro Schools, and youth-serving groups, is modeled on successful efforts in other cities like Providence, Rhode Island. Although largely publically-funded, NAZA has received private support from The Wallace Foundation, the Forum for Youth Investment, Cities of Service, and several local foundations.
- NAZA sites access **literacy-rich resources through NPL and its Limitless Libraries**. Paid NPL teen interns are delivering workshops on digital literacy and safety. The **mobile Studio-NPL** brings creative maker spaces to the sites.
- The Summer Zone and After Zone both engage additional enhancements to bring out the **talents and interests of this age group**, thanks in part to the Metro Arts Commission.
  - Teaching artists bring **pottery**, painting, origami, and fashion design.
  - Students explore **theatre**, spoken word, **photography**, African **dance**, hip hop, and step.
  - They fix up a used **bike** and make it their own. They build community **gardens**. They learn about **healthy eating and cooking**. They explore wide-ranging **careers**.
  - Thanks to **fitness** and **healthy nutrition** experts, NAZA supports obesity prevention.
  - The Adventure Science Center offers its **digital learning lab**.
- In 2016 NAZA introduces the **Summer Zone** at 4 area high school sites. Four hundred rising 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grade students participate in a 4-week program, Nashville Scholars, targeting **high school readiness and post-secondary success**.
- The **After Zone** is a network of coordinated afterschool programming for Metro Nashville's middle-school students. During its first 5 years, the After Zone has helped prepare 5,000 students for success in high school and beyond.
- The After Zone uses **16 existing providers**, called Anchor Partners, offering resources and tools to help them deliver high-quality programming to more young people. These partners were providing no-cost programs to a total of 250 students before NAZA launched. This school year they will engage **1,500 students at 45 school- or community-based sites across the county**.
- Anchor Partners are **carefully selected** in consultation with school principals. They are **assessed and monitored regularly** against NAZA's standards and indicators of youth program quality.

### Results from the first 5 years

- Because of the documented impact of program quality on youth outcomes, NAZA from its earlier days has opened its battery of **professional development opportunities to the entire youth-serving community**. To date, 123 agencies have sent their staff and volunteers to these workshops, totaling **more than 13,700 training hours**.
- Thanks to a welcoming environment, a best-practice program model, and appealing enhancements, After Zone students' **average daily attendance last year was 81%**.
- The American Institutes for Research found strong correlations between regular participation in the After Zones' high-quality programs and **improved math and science grades, fewer disciplinary referrals, and improved school attendance – all benchmarks for school success**.
- The Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality annually evaluates the After Zone and their program assessment and quality improvement process. **All zones have demonstrated improvements in Total Quality scores from their respective launch year to the present, and improvements were spread across all 4 program quality domains (safe environment, support for skill-building, interaction, and youth engagement)**.

### Plan for Continued Expansion

- NAZA is committed to engaging at least 2,000 students per year. **The goal is to double the impact in the next 5 years by engaging 10,000 additional students**.
- In addition, NAZA plans to deepen its benefits to middle school students by extending its After Zone programs from 24 to 30 weeks per year.
- NAZA is building a **pipeline of support**, beginning with middle school afterschool, through a middle/high school summer academy, to ensure success in high school and beyond.



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