



NASHVILLE AFTER ZONE ALLIANCE (NAZA)

IMPACT REPORT FY 2018 - 2019

IMPACT REPORT: NASHVILLE AFTER ZONE ALLIANCE

MAKING THE CASE: NAZA'S MISSION

The Nashville After Zone Alliance (NAZA) is a partnership between the Nashville Public Library, Metro Nashville Public Schools, the Mayor's Office, and more than 20 nonprofit organizations across Nashville. NAZA's mission is to increase equitable access to afterschool and summer learning experiences that help Nashville youth thrive and develop to their full potential. We do this by:

- **Investing** funds in afterschool and summer programs citywide for middle school youth.
- **Strengthening** the capacity of the youth-serving community through professional development, evaluation services, and technical assistance to impact the learning experiences of youth.
- **Convening** the larger youth-serving community in Nashville to strategically mobilize and leverage resources to collectively impact youth.
- **Advocating** for increased investment in the holistic youth development.
- **Empowering** youth through initiatives that cultivate their leadership and life skills, connect them to positive relationships, and inspire their love for learning.

INVESTING IN NASHVILLE'S FUTURE

According to research from the Afterschool Alliance, by 6th grade, youth from middle class families have spent 4,000+ more hours in afterschool and summer learning opportunities than their economically disadvantaged peers. Costs associated with program fees and transportation, as well as language barriers and other challenges, often prevent youth and families from accessing these programs. NAZA seeks to narrow this opportunity gap by increasing our community's investment in middle school youth and their access educational, cultural and social learning experiences.

Annually, NAZA invests \$3 million in youth-serving organizations so that afterschool and summer programs can be offered at no cost to middle school youth and their families. Contracts are awarded to youth-serving organizations on a competitive basis.



Youth Development Working Group Celebrates Adoption of Shared Youth Outcomes

STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

NAZA helps the youth-serving community increase their capacity to design, deliver, and evaluate quality learning experiences for youth. NAZA-funded organizations adhere to common standards for program quality, data tracking, and improvement. NAZA partners participate in professional development. Professional development trainings are provided in collaboration with MNPS and include positive youth development, youth engagement, and measuring program quality. To date, a total of 5,619 youth-serving professionals have participated in NAZA professional development. From 2009-2016, attendees completed a total of 19,807 hours of training. Since 2017, NAZA youth development trainings were attended by youth-serving professionals who worked directly with 12,164 youth across our community.

CONVENING COMMUNITY LEADERS & STAKEHOLDERS

NAZA regularly hosts a professional learning community of partners dedicated to promoting and raising awareness about holistic youth development; sharing collective experiences and expertise; and inspiring and mobilizing key stakeholders to impact the lives of youth. Partners gain strategies and best practices, new resources, and an expanded professional network.

ADVOCATING FOR HOLISTIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

School hours occupy nearly 20% of youth waking hours therefore “our mindset has to change – not about the importance of school – but about the value of learning that happens outside of school. NAZA uses consistent evidence from research about the impact of high-quality afterschool and summer programs and invests in initiatives that focus on the holistic approach to learning and development of children and youth. “There is a growing argument that the most powerful, relevant learning for today’s students is happening when they connect with the rapidly changing world beyond the school walls to solve problems, explore ideas, rally for a cause, or learn a new skill”, writes Education Week in the latest article.



IMPACT REPORT: NASHVILLE AFTER ZONE ALLIANCE

In 2019, NAZA launched a new initiative to bring community stakeholders together to define the skills and assets needed for youth to thrive in education, work, and life. In partnership with Vanderbilt University's Peabody College, a Youth Development Working Group (and Youth Outcomes Team), and the many stakeholders who have informed the conversation, our community has adopted a set of youth outcomes and assets for informal education settings and is building a roadmap for how we can best support youth in developing those skills and assets, particularly in afterschool and summer learning settings.

EMPOWERING YOUTH TO LEAD & LEARN

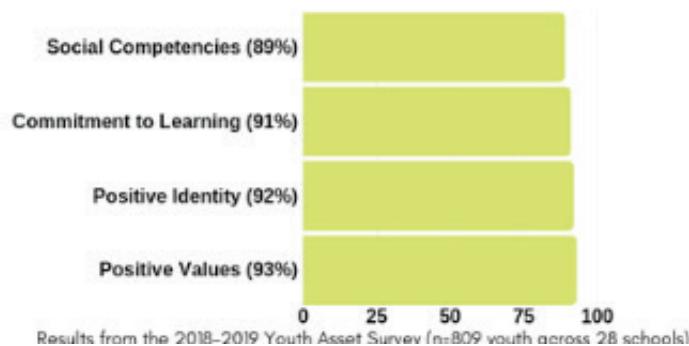


NAZA elevates youth voice by investing in youth-led initiatives like *Youth in Action!*, a pilot recently created and developed by a high schooler who currently serves as NAZA's Youth Advisor. This initiative pairs high school youth with middle school youth on a weekly basis and supports them in taking action on issues that are important to them. Youth develop an action plan for projects in their community and collaborate with other youth to amplify their voice and reach. NAZA also works intentionally to ensure that youth engage meaningfully in initiatives that are focused on areas that impact them (e.g., youth outcomes and assets, summer learning, and positive youth development).

CHANGING LIVES: NAZA'S IMPACT ON YOUTH

To date, 13,745 Nashville youth have engaged in NAZA-funded programs. Furthermore, research shows a positive correlation between the quality of afterschool and summer programs and those respective programs' overall impact on youth. When programs increase the quality of their instructional practices, they also increase youths' level of engagement with the programming, the youths' relationships with peers, and the caring adults who lead the programming.

In 2018-2019, 1,841 youth engaged in up to 200 additional hours of learning through NAZA-funded afterschool programs. They reported that they gained social and emotional competencies as a result of participating in afterschool program activities, including:



IMPACT REPORT: NASHVILLE AFTER ZONE ALLIANCE

In conducting analyses of NAZA youth participants, the American Institutes for Research made a few preliminary conclusions about the relationship between afterschool program attendance, program quality, and youth outcomes:

- A relationship exists between youth enrollment in higher quality programs and fewer disciplinary incidents incurred during the 2012–13 school year.
- A relationship exists between higher levels of afterschool program attendance and fewer disciplinary incidents incurred during the 2012–13 school year,
- Higher levels of afterschool program attendance, sometimes combined with higher quality programming, was related to greater improvement in mathematics and science grades during the span of the 2012–13 school year.

In addition to these findings, we found some evidence that higher program quality and high program attendance were associated with fewer school-day tardies, a higher percentage of school days attended, and greater improvement in social studies grades.

In 2017 Vanderbilt University conducted another evaluation and found that:

- NAZA students showed better growth in school attendance relative to comparison students.
- NAZA students showed better growth on a school discipline outcome relative to comparison students.
- Students who participated in NAZA longer experienced better growth in TCAP scores and school attendance; demonstrated greater decreases in truancy offenses over time; and showed higher PLAN percentile scores.



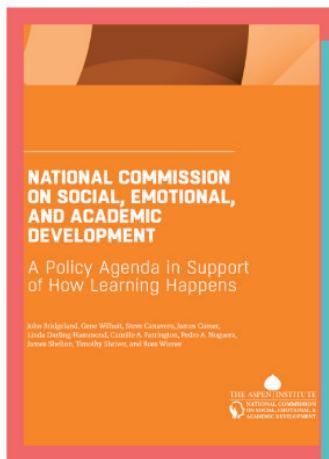
IMPACT REPORT: NASHVILLE AFTER ZONE ALLIANCE

LOCAL AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

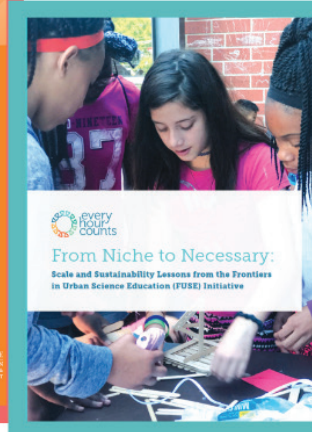
Over the years, NAZA's capacity-building efforts have been elevated through national partnerships and networks. NAZA was recently recognized in:

- *The Aspen Institute National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development's "A Policy Agenda in Support of How Learning Happens"*
- *Every Hour Counts' "From Niche to Necessary: Scale and Sustainability Lessons from the Frontiers in Urban Science Education (FUSE) Initiative"*
- *Education Week's "After-school Programs Keep Learning Going with Student Data"*
- *Chapin Hall, Gamse Partnership, Wallace Foundation's "Using Data to Strengthen Afterschool Planning, Management, and Strategy: Lessons from Eight Cities"*

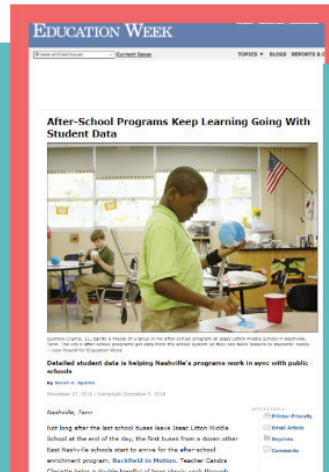
National Recognition



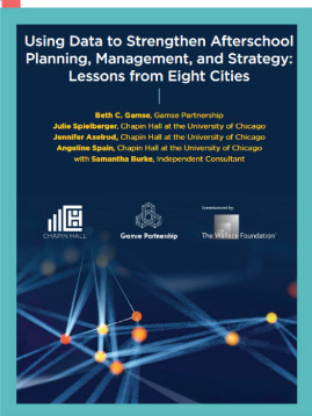
The Aspen Institute National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development. "A Policy Agenda in Support of How Learning Happens."



Every Hour Counts. "From Niche to Necessary: Scale and Sustainability Lessons from the Frontiers in Urban Science Education (FUSE) Initiative."



Education Week. "After-School Programs Keep Learning Going with Student Data."



Chapin Hall, Gamse Partnership, Wallace Foundation. "Using Data to Strengthen Afterschool Planning, Management, and Strategy: Lessons from Eight Cities"

In the fall of 2019, NAZA was awarded a national 'How Learning Happens' grant from the America's Promise Alliance to host a 2020 convening that will highlight the conditions that need to be in place for young people to thrive, as defined by stakeholders across our community, and launch a community effort designed to foster those conditions.

LOOKING FORWARD: THE NEXT 10 YEARS

In 2020, NAZA celebrates 10 years of investing in high-quality afterschool and summer learning experiences for Nashville youth.

- The next era of its work will include the launch and implementation of the youth outcomes and assets framework that conceptualizes how our community can best support youth in developing skills and assets.
- NAZA will intentionally raise and invest funds in the implementation of the outcomes framework through professional development, support services, and measurement metrics.
- NAZA will re-envision the leadership structure to enable coordination of multiple community-wide initiatives, including summer learning initiative, collective impact work, and youth-led initiatives in partnership with MNPS and other community stakeholders.
- NAZA will engage in long-term fundraising and funding effort to enable broader access to free and high quality summer learning for children and youth.
- Finally, NAZA will continue to strengthen the capacity of the youth-serving community through professional development, evaluation services, and technical assistance to impact the learning experiences of youth. professional development and coaching offered to the youth-serving community.
- In 2020, NAZA will launch an online positive youth development training that will be widely accessible and free-of-charge. Additionally, NAZA will develop a system for individualized coaching on 1) best practices in positive youth development and 2) how to design, deliver, and evaluate activities that build and strengthens 21st Century and SEL skills.