What is Northfield Promise?

Northfield Promise is a community movement to help all of our children thrive, from cradle to career.

Northfield Promise connects resources, programs, and community members to collaborate toward 10 benchmarks—academic, social, and emotional—throughout each child’s life.

Northfield Promise strives to make Northfield a place where every child has the chance to be happy, healthy, and well-educated.

Northfield Promise believes that when our institutions all work toward these shared benchmarks, we improve our community for everyone.

Northfield Promise collaborates with the community, challenging it to ensure all children succeed by closing gaps in access and success among Northfield’s youth.

Northfield has received the “Proof Point” designation from StriveTogether for our results. This is the highest national recognition that StriveTogether bestows. It indicates that a community has consistently improved education outcomes for children and youth from infancy to adulthood and has changed systems to advance better and more equitable outcomes. Northfield was just the 12th community in the country to receive Proof Point (and the first in Minnesota)!

FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Together, we

MEASURE what matters
IDENTIFY best practices
SPREAD what works

to help all Northfield youth reach their full potential.
2020-21 By the Numbers

CLOSING THE GAP
Provided 6,124 academic advising sessions to 368 TORCH youth in grades 6–12. Youth were students of color, from low-income homes, and/or potential first-generation college attendees.

EARLY LITERACY
Distributed 10,289 books to local children through 24 free bookshelves and the Northfield Library BookBike.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
47 Latinx parents participated in a six-month program that supported them in advocating for improvements in education systems.

POST-GRADUATION OUTREACH
Connected with 278 Class of 2020 graduates monthly for six months to provide additional support in their post-high school transition.

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT
1,144 youth attended free after-school and summer programming through the Northfield PRIMETIME out-of-school-time collaborative.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
93 high school students served on 31 different Northfield boards and commissions through the Youth on Boards initiative.
Northfield Promise

10 Benchmarks

1. Be connected to the community during the early childhood years
2. Be ready for kindergarten
3. Exhibit physical, social, and emotional well-being in elementary school
4. Be at grade level in reading and math by the end of 3rd grade
5. Have a connection with a mentor well beyond their parents' influence in the transition to middle school
6. Be at grade level in reading and math by the end of 8th grade
7. Have interests, goals, and a vision for their future by the end of 8th grade
8. Exhibit physical, social, and emotional well-being in high school
9. Report feeling connected and engaged in community and school
10. Graduate from high school with a plan to reach their full potential

To improve these outcomes, we need your help!
Volunteer or Donate: northfieldpromise.org

Impacting Systems-Level Indicators

Internet Access for All Youth
To ensure that all Northfield youth had access to the internet for the 2020-21 school year, the district provided free internet to all youth.

Career Pathways Broaden Reach
Addressing gaps where the local workforce doesn't reflect the demographics of the community, the district has increased career and technical pathway offerings—law enforcement, medical, mental health, and the trades—through partnerships with local businesses and community leaders.

Northfield Promise

KINDERTEN READINESS SCORES IMPROVE
Fall 2020 kindergarten entry data reflected a combined increase and improvement in kindergarten readiness. In 2020, 91% of all kindergarten entry levels met or exceeded the benchmark for reading, up from 86% in 2019. Reading scores for kindergartens from low-income homes reached 66% in 2020, up from 34% in 2019.

For math, 78% of all kindergartens met the grade-level benchmark in 2020. Up from 74% in 2019. Math scores for kindergartens from low-income homes reached 86% in 2020, up from 76% in 2019.

Navigators: Extend Outreach
Through Rice County’s new Early Childhood Integrated Organization, children in need can get help from several agencies working together.

Early Childhood

Reading Boosts Summer Learning
In summer 2021, 160 Northfield elementary students who attended Summer PLUS, 34 teachers and 26 staff members participated in the Springbreak Collaborative Learning Accelerator. The evidence-based program coaches teachers, trains family members, and cultivates reading habits in students so they learn to read by 3rd grade.

Torch Scholars Build Fundraising
Through a generous grant from the Torch Scholars program, 47 Torch scholars raised $20,000 in one year—seventh, and eighth grade.

Middle School

Students Earn Dual Credits in Pilot Program
More than 180 Northfield High School students enrolled in dual high school and college credit in 2019-20, without leaving their regular curriculum. Through a new pilot partnership between the high school and Minnesota State University, Mankato, the program allowed interested 11th and 12th grade students to take classes from high school and receive both college and high school credit. Prior classes were offered: Composition I, Economics, and College Composition. Students said it was “a manageable way to do a college level course with teachers they already know, and it had a familiar connection to” said Northfield High School Guidance Mark (Mark). “That’s what we really hoped for that it would be like, that they were being a rigorous class with someone that they respected.”

Northfield Promise continues to expand, both in the number of students it serves and the ways in which it supports them. One impact of Northfield Promise is a learning community where coach and student support each other.

Our doors are open to all and we’re so grateful for the chance to continue growing in this community,” in 2020-21, the Northfield Promise 15th students enrolled in pilot classes. 48 are taking their final classes, 12 are taking another online class, and 22 are taking classes at other campuses, or are enrolled in 13 different colleges or other post-secondary institutions.

Beyond

NCCD Keeps Growing
The Northfield Community College Dual Credit Division itself added dual credit to the fall 2021 summer with seven in-person courses, conducted in the renovated classroom spaces on the second floor of the Northfield Community Resource Center. Of the 15 students enrolled in twin cities.

“Your work matters,” said one student. “I can’t wait to see the impact of Northfield Promise after the students have graduated and are working in their respective fields of study.”
c/o Healthy Community Initiative
1651 Jefferson Parkway, Suite HS128
Northfield, MN 55057-2760

Be part of OUR WORK!

Get involved with Northfield youth!
Community is vital to the success of Northfield Promise.
Join us in our mission to ensure every child in Northfield thrives.

Visit: northfieldpromise.org/volunteer

facebook.com/northfieldpromise