



Español

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# 2021 Report to the Community



**Northfield  
PROMISE**

Every child. Cradle to career.

# 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.



### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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



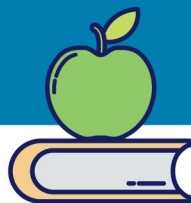
### ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT



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

### EARLY LITERACY

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



### POST-GRADUATION OUTREACH

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

### YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

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





We, as a community, commit to working tirelessly to ensure that ALL Northfield children will:



# 10 Benchmarks

To improve these outcomes, we need your help!  
Volunteer or Donate: [northfieldpromise.org](http://northfieldpromise.org)

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 caring adult beyond their parents as they transition to middle school



6

Be at grade level in reading and math by the end of 6th grade



For detailed local data on all 10 Northfield benchmarks, visit [northfieldpromise.org/benchmarks](http://northfieldpromise.org/benchmarks)

7

Have interests, goals and a vision for the 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 their high school and community

10



Graduate from high school with a plan to reach their full potential

## EARLY CHILDHOOD



### KINDERGARTEN READINESS SCORES IMPROVE

Fall 2020 kindergarten entry data showed continued improvement in kindergarten readiness. In 2020, **78%** of all kindergartners met the grade-level benchmark for reading, up from 55% in 2018. Reading scores for kindergartners from low-income homes reached **60%** in 2020, up from 34% in 2018.

For math, **76%** of all kindergartners met the grade-level benchmark in 2020, up from 56% in 2018. Math scores for kindergartners from low-income homes reached **53%** in 2020, up from 38% in 2018.

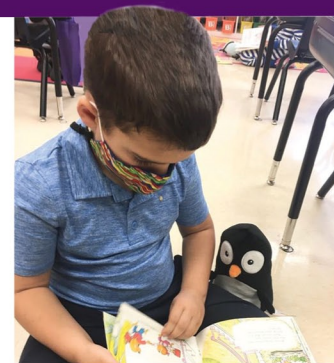
### NAVIGATORS EXPAND OUTREACH

Through Rice County's new Early Childhood Hubs, Growing Up Healthy's early childhood navigators find hard-to-reach families with young children and connect them to services and resources. Despite the pandemic, navigators served **95** Northfield children and **121** parents/caregivers in 2020–21.

The Early Childhood Hubs are a one-stop shop where families can get help from navigators and staff from partnering agencies in areas ranging from food access to housing to mental health services. In Northfield, physical hubs are located at the Northfield Community Education Center and Greenvale Park Community School.

The GUH staff also takes mobile hubs to events where families are present. The Early Childhood Hubs are funded by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

## ELEMENTARY



### READING PROGRAM BOOSTS SUMMER LEARNING

In summer 2021, **198** Northfield elementary students who attended Summer PLUS, and **34** teachers and **39** staff members participated in the **Springboard Collaborative Learning Accelerator**. The evidence-based program coaches

teachers, trains family members, and cultivates reading habits in students so they learn to read by fourth grade.

Northfield Public Schools paid for and staffed the program using federal COVID funding. Hosted at Greenvale Park Elementary School, the 20-day experience included family/teacher meetings, daily literacy instruction in five major reading strategies, family workshops, and daily reading at home for incentives.

Participating students came from all Northfield elementary schools, and **105** families attended family meetings with a teacher.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### TORCH SCHOLARS BUILD COMMUNITY

The TORCH Summer Scholars program served **47** TORCH students heading into sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. Students could sign up for multiple days or weeks during the free program, which ran from June 21–July 16, 2021. Activities included visiting two- and four-year colleges, hearing from guest speakers about careers, volunteering at the local food shelf, and participating in a downtown scavenger hunt—all things that the students weren't able to do during the school year because of the pandemic. The program also aimed to create stronger peer connections and build community among the TORCH students after so many months of isolation.

Through a partnership with the Northfield Public Schools Child Nutrition Services, students received free hot lunches four days a week and a packed lunch on Fridays (field trip days).



## HIGH SCHOOL

### STUDENTS EARN DUAL CREDITS IN PILOT PROGRAM

More than 100 Northfield High School students attended both high school and college in 2020–21, without leaving their regular classrooms, through a new pilot partnership between the high school and Minnesota State



University, Mankato. The concurrent enrollment program allowed **108** students to take classes from Northfield High School teachers and receive both college and high school credit. Four classes were offered: Composition 101, German 3, French 3, and Spanish 4.

Students said it was “a manageable way to do a college-level course with teachers they already knew, or had a familiar connection to,” said Northfield High School Counselor Mark Ensrud. “That’s what we really hoped for, that it would feel like they were taking a rigorous class with someone they felt supported by.”

In 2021–22, three sections of Composition 101 are offered to seniors. Funding for the pilot program was provided by Northfield Promise through the StriveTogether Opportunity Fund.

### NCCC KEEPS GROWING

The Northfield Community College Collaborative (NCCC) kicked off the fall 2021 semester with seven in-person classes, conducted in renovated classroom spaces on the second floor of the Northfield Community Resource Center.

Of the 75 students enrolled in fall classes, **45** are taking Riverland Community College classes that the NCCC hosts, and **30** are taking either online classes, courses at Riverland's other campuses, or are enrolled in **13** different colleges and universities.

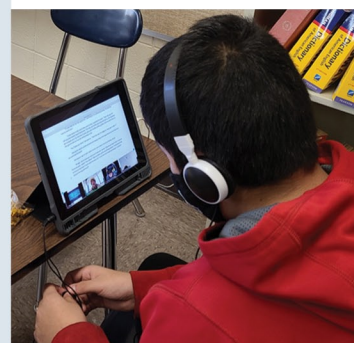
“The NCCC continues to expand, both in the number of students it serves and the ways in which it supports them,” said NCCC Director Sarah Lee.



“Our doors are open to all, and we’re so grateful for the chance to continue growing in this community.”

In 2020–21, the NCCC supported **73** students, **51** of whom accessed in-person classes in Northfield. Those students took **249** classes (**11** classes in-person and **238** online). Ten students graduated from the NCCC with a certification or associate degree.

## 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, **242** children from **123** low-income homes received free internet service. This initiative is continuing in 2021–22. It is funded through resources from the City of Northfield, Rice County, Northfield Public Schools, StriveTogether, and the Partnership for ConnectedMN.



### Career Pathways Broaden Reach

Addressing gaps where the local workforce doesn't reflect the demographics of the community was a goal of three Northfield Promise-supported pathways programs—in law enforcement, chemical/mental health, and the public sector.

These pathways programs have provided adults of color and/or from low-income homes with tuition assistance and mentoring support while working

in their selected field and attending school in the evenings. In 2020–21, **29** people enrolled in one of these pathways.

Northfield Police Chief Mark Elliott said the department was excited about possibilities for the law enforcement pathway.

“We want our police employees to be representative of the community they serve. What better way to accomplish this than to have the opportunity to attend school for law enforcement right here in our community,” he said.





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**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](https://northfieldpromise.org/volunteer)



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