



**Northfield  
PROMISE**

*Every child. Cradle to career.*



**Español**

[northfieldpromise.org/espanol](https://northfieldpromise.org/espanol)

# 2022 Report to the Community



## What is Northfield Promise?

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

- ♥ Connects **resources, programs,** and **community members** to collaborate toward **10 benchmarks**—academic, social, and emotional—**throughout each child's life**
- ♥ Strives to make Northfield a place where **every child** has the chance to be **happy, healthy,** and **well-educated**
- ♥ Believes that **when our neighbors and institutions all work toward these shared benchmarks, we improve our community for everyone**
- ♥ Collaborates with the community, challenging it to **ensure all children succeed by closing gaps in access and success** among Northfield's youth

Together, we



**MEASURE**  
what matters



**IDENTIFY**  
best practices



**SPREAD**  
what works

to help **all** Northfield youth  
reach their **full potential.**

**MANY THANKS!**



**DONATE**



If you believe that a community working together can change the lives of children, please consider a tax-deductible donation to Northfield Promise.



[northfieldpromise.org/support/donate](https://northfieldpromise.org/support/donate)



# Progress Toward Racial & Ethnic Equity

As a StriveTogether cradle-to-career partnership, **Northfield Promise** works with other community organizations and leaders to enact changes that will enable students of color and their families, and those experiencing poverty, to have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential. Systems indicators are ways of measuring progress toward racial and ethnic equity. **Here are some measures of progress made in 2021-22:**

- **Teaching Fellows:** Five community members were selected in spring 2022 for a 2022-23 Teaching Fellowship through the Northfield Public Schools. The program is supported by a *Grow Your Own* grant from the Minnesota Department of Education. **Northfield was one of six districts in the state to receive the grant**, which aims to help Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) members of the community attain their teaching licenses. **A new round of applications opened in fall 2022.**



**Systems Change**  
communities are shifting  
policies, practices,  
resources and power  
structures that enable  
Black, Indigenous,  
Latine, and Asian youth  
and families and those  
experiencing poverty to  
reach their fullest potential.

StriveTogether®

## TalkingPoints

- Northfield Public Schools launched the **TalkingPoints** translation platform district-wide in fall 2021 for all students in grades pre-K-12, as a way of removing obstacles to family engagement. **Teachers and staff can send text messages in English and have those messages translated into a family's home language using artificial intelligence and human translators.** Parents can respond in their language of choice, and the return messages are translated into English.



- The **Northfield Racial and Ethnic Equity Collaborative** (NREEC) collaborated with community partners to provide a **free customized customer service training in August that focused on diversity, equity and inclusion for 195 employees from 29 Northfield businesses.** The training was based on local survey data collected in spring 2022. The NREEC is composed of 20 community institutions and organizations, including Growing Up Healthy and Healthy Community Initiative. It strives to build shared cultural competence, understand biases, and carry out the work of systems change to begin shifting policies, practices, resources, and power structures.



# 10 Benchmarks

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



## EARLY CHILDHOOD

### BENCHMARK 01

Be connected to the community during the early childhood years

• **81%** of students from economically challenged families attended high-quality preschool programs outside their homes for 21 or more hours in 2021, an increase from 52% in 2020. Among all children, the number was **78%**, up from 62% in 2020.

• **64%** of all kindergartners met or exceeded the grade-level benchmark for reading in fall 2022; among Latine students, the rate was **41%**, and for students from economically challenged families, it was **47%**.



### Navigators Boost Connections

Growing Up Healthy's bilingual early childhood navigators worked with **219 children ages birth to pre-K** in 2021-22, **more than double the number served in 2020-21**. Navigators helped to connect children and their families with **preschool, other early childhood programs, screening, and social services**. Navigators met with families at the Northfield Community Education Center and brought the mobile Early Childhood Hubs to community events.

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



## ELEMENTARY

### BENCHMARK 03

Exhibit physical, social and emotional well-being in elementary school

- **76%** of Northfield fifth graders reported feeling good about themselves. This number was slightly lower for female-identifying students, at **71%**.
- **57%** of all third graders met or exceeded the grade-level benchmark for

reading; scores went up **5%** between 2021 and 2022 for students from economically challenged families, and up **7%** for Latine\* students.

*\*Latine is a gender-neutral adjective for individuals with Latin American heritage.*

### BENCHMARK 04

Be at grade level in reading and math by the end of 3rd grade

### Teachers Seek LETRS Training

Fifty Northfield Public Schools elementary teachers and staff enrolled in LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling), an intensive training to teach early learners how to read based on brain science.



*Teachers feel frustration that despite all the hard work they're putting in every day, they weren't seeing the results that they wanted. This information will set them on the path to reach every reader.*

– Hope Langston, Northfield Public Schools Director of Instructional Services



## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### BENCHMARK 05

Have a connection with a caring adult beyond their parents as they transition to middle school

- **59%** of middle school students reported feeling that adults in the community care about them “quite a bit” or “very much,” a drop from 68% in 2019, the last time students were surveyed.
- Economically challenged and Latine students improved in their reading

proficiency between 2021 and 2022 (up **10%** and **3%**, respectively); overall, **72%** of all sixth-grade students were proficient. Sixth-grade students also improved in math across all demographic groups; overall, proficiency increased from 54% to **59%**.

### BENCHMARK 06

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

### BENCHMARK 07

Have interests, goals, and a vision for the future by the end of 8th grade

### ACES Program Launches at NMS

Northfield was selected in spring 2022 as the **first site outside of the Twin Cities** to host the innovative after-school program **ACES (Athletes Committed to Educating Students)**. The program will serve up to 50 students in grades 6–8, providing project-based lessons that boost math and social-emotional learning skills through the lens of sports.



## HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND

### BENCHMARK 08

Exhibit physical, social, and emotional well-being in high school

- **55%** of all high school students said they “often or always” felt good about themselves, and **31%** of high school students said they believe adults in their community care about them.
- **90%** of all students at Northfield High School and the Area Learning Center

graduated in 2021, and the graduation rate for Latine students was **84%**.



### Students Explore Health Care Careers

High school students completed an interest survey and met with local employers to discuss career options. Northfield Hospital + Clinics offered a presentation for students interested in health care.

Northfield Hospital + Clinics also partnered with the Northfield Community College Collaborative on a new EMT pathway program that launched in fall 2022. The NCCC collaborated with other community partners in 2021-22 to eliminate barriers to postsecondary education; it added free onsite childcare for students attending evening classes, and it offered free evening meals for students with food insecurities and those who lacked the time or the financial resources to purchase a meal before class.

### BENCHMARK 09

Report feeling connected and engaged in their high school and community

### BENCHMARK 10

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





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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](http://northfieldpromise.org/volunteer)



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