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—a
dademic, 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.

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
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.

- 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.
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

**BENCHMARK 02**
Be ready for kindergarten

**BENCHMARK 03**
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.

**BENCHMARK 04**
Be at grade level in reading and math by the end of 3rd grade

**BENCHMARK 05**
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.

**BENCHMARK 06**
Be at grade level in reading and math by the end of 5th grade

**BENCHMARK 07**
Exhibit physical, social, and emotional well-being in elementary school

**BENCHMARK 08**
Exhibit physical, social, and emotional well-being in middle school

**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

**BENCHMARKS in the Image**

- **81%** of all kindergartners met or exceeded the grade-level benchmark for reading, scoring went up between 2021 and 2022 for students from economically challenged families, and up 1% for Latino* students.
- **57%** of all third graders met or exceeded the grade-level benchmark for reading, scores went up between 2021 and 2022 for students from economically challenged families, and up 1% for Latino* students.
- **78%** of students from economically challenged families met or exceeded the grade-level benchmark for reading, scoring went up between 2021 and 2022 for students from economically challenged families, and up 1% for Latino* students.
- **62%** in 2020.
- **219 children ages birth to pre-K** in 2021–22, more than double the number served in 2020–21.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**BENCHMARK 11**
Have a connection with a caring adult beyond their parents as they transition to middle school

**BENCHMARK 12**
Economically challenged and Latino students improved in their reading proficiency between 2021 and 2022 (up 10% and 11%, respectively); 75% of all students in grades 4–8 met or exceeded the grade-level benchmark for reading, scores went up between 2021 and 2022 for students from economically challenged families, and up 1% for Latino* students.

**BENCHMARK 13**
Be connected to working tirelessly to ensure that all Northfield children will achieve these benchmarks:

**BENCHMARKS in the Image**

- **84%** of students from economically challenged families met or exceeded the grade-level benchmark for reading, scoring went up between 2021 and 2022 for students from economically challenged families, and up 1% for Latino* students.
- **68% in 2019, the last time** students were surveyed. Economically challenged and Latino students also improved in math across all demographic groups; overall, proficiency increased from 54% to 65%.

**HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND**

**BENCHMARK 14**
Be at grade level in reading by the end of 6th grade

**BENCHMARK 15**
Be at grade level in reading by the end of 8th grade

**BENCHMARK 16**
Report feeling connected and engaged in their high school and community

**BENCHMARK 17**
Graduate from high school with a plan to reach their full potential

**BENCHMARKS in the Image**

- **98% of seniors served by the TORCH program graduated on time in 2022.**

**HIGH SCHOOL**

**BENCHMARK 18**
Graduate from high school with a plan to reach their full potential

**BENCHMARKS in the Image**

- **55% of middle school students reported feeling that adults in the community care about them “quite a bit” or “very much,” a drop from 66% in 2019.** 1% of all students in grades 4–8 met or exceeded the grade-level benchmark for reading, scores went up between 2021 and 2022 for students from economically challenged families, and up 1% for Latino* students.

For detailed local data on all 10 Northfield benchmarks, visit northfieldpromise.org/benchmarks

**EXHIBIT PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING IN HIGH SCHOOL**

**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.

**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 Northfield Community College Collaborative on a new EMT pathway program that launched in fall 2022.

**BENCHMARK 20**
Graduate from high school with a plan to reach their full potential

**BENCHMARKS in the Image**

- **84% of high school students said they “often or always” felt good about themselves, and 80% said their school community cared about them.”**
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