



Northfield Community Education Center
School Improvement Plan
2025-26
Presented to the Board on 8.25.2025

Purpose

The purpose of the school improvement plan is to share success stories, identify focus areas for the upcoming school year, align efforts, and inspire action toward achieving our strategic plan and vision to prepare **every** student for lifelong success!

School Improvement Plan Highlights and Goals

Highlights		
Highlight No. 1	Benchmark Alignment	Narrative
<p>Children leave the Northfield Community Education Center (NCEC) prepared for Kindergarten. Here is the data for the 2024-25 school year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">93% of Early Ventures students were “low risk” as determined by the 2024 fall Fastbridge assessment.79% of Hand in Hand Preschool students were “low risk” as determined by the 2024 fall Fastbridge assessment. <p>The NCEC serves diverse populations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Early Ventures total enrollment for September 2024 - August 2025 - 94 students<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students receiving scholarship = 4.2%Students of color = 8.5%Special Education students = 7.4%Hand in Hand Preschool total enrollment at the end of the year - 180 students<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students receiving scholarship = 44.4%Students of color = 36.1%Special Education students = 36.1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All children are ready for Kindergarten.Community education provides relevant and accessible learning opportunities for all residents.	<p>The Fastbridge assessment was administered to Kindergarten students during the first month of school. We selected this tool to assess academic skills in Early Ventures this year because we did not have a Reading Corps member and, therefore, did not have access to the PEI assessment.</p> <p>In Hand in Hand Preschool, two different assessments were used last year. This was due to Voluntary Pre-K requirements and the timing of when we received Voluntary Pre-K funding. As a result, only certain classrooms implemented the new assessment last school year, leading to incomplete data from a single assessment tool.</p>

- Northfield Adult Basic Education (ABE) statistics for the 2024-25 school year
 - 189 students (ages 17-75)
 - 15 languages spoken
 - 24 countries represented

Highlight No. 2

All parents report satisfaction with their children's educational experience. Here are the results from the Studer Education Parent Satisfaction Survey conducted in 2023, 2024 and 2025. These scores are based on a 5 point scale.

Northfield Public Schools: Parent/Caregiver Experience Survey

Northfield Community Education Center: Overall Results

	Spring 2023	Spring 2024	Spring 2025	District Results
Participants	19	63	63	457
Mean	4.67	4.59	4.56	4.10
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	Spring 2023	Spring 2024	Spring 2025	District Results
1 I believe my child's learning is a high priority at this school.	4.78	4.70	4.67	4.26
2 I believe school rules are enforced consistently at this school.	4.47	4.52	4.54	4.00
3 I regularly receive feedback from school staff on how well my child is learning.	4.53	4.11	4.08	3.44
4 I am treated with respect at this school.	4.79	4.73	4.68	4.38
5 I believe my child has every opportunity to be successful at this school.	4.63	4.67	4.68	4.15
6 I believe my child has the necessary classroom supplies and equipment for effective learning.	4.68	4.70	4.65	4.32
7 I believe this school positively impacts my child's growth and development.	4.74	4.76	4.73	4.21
8 I believe this school provides a safe environment for my child to learn.	4.68	4.75	4.70	4.24
9 I believe my child is recognized for good work and behavior at this school.	4.58	4.59	4.46	4.02
10 I believe the school is clean and well maintained.	4.68	4.60	4.60	4.31
11 I believe the teachers, staff, and administration at this school demonstrate a genuine concern for my child.	4.84	4.78	4.67	4.23
12 I am proud to say I have a child at this school.	4.74	4.69	4.63	4.20
13 I receive positive phone calls, emails, or notes about my child from the school.	4.58	4.26	4.24	3.40
14 I feel comfortable approaching school administration.	4.72	4.55	4.49	4.21
15 I believe school administration make decisions that are in the best interest of children and families.	4.58	4.48	4.59	4.07

Highlight No. 3

Partnerships serve an important role in meeting the needs of students, families and staff.

- From July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025, the NCEC Food Shelf (operated by the Community Action Center (CAC)), has had 1,132 visits from 257 unique households. There was 47,164 pounds of food distributed from the NCEC Food Shelf this

Benchmark Alignment

Narrative

- All parents report satisfaction with their children's educational experience.

Parents continue to report satisfaction with the educational programs at the NCEC.

Benchmark Alignment

- All children are ready for Kindergarten.
- All students are connected to the community.
- All students exhibit physical, social, and emotional well-being.
- All students have a connection with a caring adult beyond their parents as they transition to middle school.

The CAC implemented the change from weekly to every other week visits for clients at the beginning of this time period, which is why you see a drop in both visits and poundage (as compared to the same time period last year). Most of the NCEC shoppers used to come weekly, so they were disproportionately impacted by this change. Also, as food has become more expensive and

<p>past year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025, the Early Childhood Navigators (who have office space at the NCEC), worked with 100 children ages 6 and younger from 90 families. There were a total of 3,072 interactions reported with these 90 families. The Community School model allows for numerous community partners to be part of programming. <p>Adult Basic Education (ABE), a program of Northfield Public Schools, connects adults with a wide range of community resources. The program experienced significant growth in student contact hours over the past two school years. In 2023–24, ABE saw a 48% overall increase in student contact hours, followed by a 30% increase in 2024–25. Specifically for Northfield, there was a 37% increase in 2023–24 and a 34% increase in 2024–25.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students have interests, goals, and a vision for the future by the end of 8th grade. Community education provides relevant and accessible learning opportunities for all residents. 	<p>sourcing more difficult, the CAC has also seen a county-wide drop in the number of pounds going out the door, so NCEC is on-trend in that regard.</p> <p>Early Childhood Navigator data was very similar to last year.</p> <p>The current 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) grant, which supports our Community School work, ends on August 31, 2025. We submitted a new 21st CCLC grant application in March 2025 and are still awaiting a funding decision. The delay is due to federal funds for future grant cycles not yet being awarded to the states.</p> <p>Northfield has a strong ABE program and participant numbers and contact hours continue to grow. ABE funding was initially paused by the federal government at the end of June, but since then all federal funds have been released. The ABE space, which was not remodeled with most of the NCEC in 2020, will be remodeled next summer with funding from the Multipurpose Community Facility Projects grant.</p>
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Highlights

Goal No. 1	Benchmark Alignment	Action Steps
<p>Academic Goals</p> <p>ABE 36.7% of ABE students will show Measurable Skill Gains (MSGs)</p> <p>Birth - age 5/Service Providers 80% of students receiving Special Education services will achieve all of their IEP goals.</p> <p>ECFE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of students (parents and children) will show growth 80% of students (parents and children) will meet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children are ready for Kindergarten. All students are connected to the community. All students exhibit physical, social, and emotional well-being. Community education provides relevant and accessible learning opportunities for all residents. 	<p>ABE</p> <p>The Minnesota Department of Education sets annual targets for Measurable Skill Gains (MSGs) in ABE. MSGs are “an indicator used to demonstrate participants’ progress toward achieving a credential or employment.” Adult Education programs can demonstrate MSG in five ways. The primary way is by achieving an Educational Functioning Level gain (EFL) on the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems or Test of Adult Basic Education standardized assessments. Basically, did the student score higher on their post-test (which can only be given after 40+ hours of instruction) than they did on their pre-test (which was given when they entered the program). Steps to achieve</p>

<p>class goals</p> <p>Early Ventures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of students will show growth • 80% of students will demonstrate academic proficiency (as determined by the Mother Goose assessment (a Parent Aware assessment)) <p>Hand in Hand Preschool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of students will show growth • 80% of students will demonstrate academic proficiency (as determined by the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment) 		<p>this goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing professional development focused on EL, adult literacy, and digital literacy, including sessions on foundational reading skills, phonemic awareness, phonics, & fluency, one-room-schoolhouse (multi-level classroom) teaching/differentiated instruction, working with students with learning challenges, formative/summative assessment, ABE content standards, CCRS/ELA standards, etc. • Participation in professional development such as Language & Literacy Institute, Cultural Competency Training, Math Institute, ABE Regionals, Summer Institute, ABE Foundations, and more. • Use of MDE-approved distance learning platforms to extend learning beyond the classroom. • Supplemental student support with conversation classes, teacher mentoring, and support-staff in every class. • Intensive small-group and one-on-one support in every class from trained MN Literacy Council volunteers, focusing on phonics, pronunciation, and foundational reading skills as directed by the teacher. <p>Birth - age 5/Service Providers</p> <p>This group will focus their PLC time on Family Guided Routines Based Interventions (FGRBI). In addition, they will meet regularly with a local licensed social worker with an infant mental health endorsement.</p> <p>ECFE</p> <p>This group will focus their PLC time on Family Guided Routines Based Interventions (FGRBI). In addition, they will meet regularly with a local licensed social worker with an infant mental health endorsement.</p>
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		<p>Early Ventures During workshop week, Early Ventures staff will receive training from Kelley Foehrkob, Northfield Public Schools Behavior Specialist, and Tekla Johnson, a licensed social worker with an infant mental health endorsement.</p> <p>Hand in Hand Preschool PLC time for Hand in Hand Preschool teachers will focus on learning the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment, which will be used by all classrooms this year, and determining a new curriculum for the program. Hand in Hand Preschool is now part of the district curriculum review cycle.</p>
<p>Goal No. 2</p> <p>Employee engagement survey goal On the NCEC Employee Engagement survey, our greatest growth opportunity was in, “I receive feedback concerning areas for improving my performance.” We will increase the score on this question from 3.67 to 3.8.</p>	<p><u>Benchmark Alignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All employees report satisfaction in the workplace. 	<p>Action Steps</p> <p>The NCEC will implement the following employee engagement and connectedness strategies this school year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rounding conversations will be offered to all employees in October and April. • Weekly staff shoutouts and building-wide employee award recognition will happen regularly. • The Community Education Director and program coordinators will provide direct feedback to staff during individual and group meetings.
<p>Goal No. 3</p> <p>Parent satisfaction survey goal The NCEC will maintain a 4.56 overall rating, while increasing the number of parents/caregivers who complete the survey.</p>	<p><u>Benchmark Alignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All parents report satisfaction with their children's educational experience. 	<p>Action Steps</p> <p>The NCEC will implement the following family engagement and connectedness strategies this school year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Ventures Learning Center and Hand in Hand Preschool will provide positive contacts to students and their families. This year, 100% of students will receive two personalized, positive phone calls, emails, notes, or an individual SeeSaw message from staff members. The first contact will happen prior to October

		<p>15, 2025 and the second contact will happen prior to March 15, 2026. Based on family and staff feedback, at least one of these communications will be specific to their child's learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand in Hand Preschool and Early Ventures will have weekly and monthly communication with families through newsletters, SeeSaw and conferences. • The NCEC will host five events throughout the school year for families to attend. These events include Playground and Popsicles, Truck and Tractor Night, the NCEC Carnival, open gyms/stay and plays, and program specific events.
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Summary

The NCEC prioritizes creating a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment for students, staff, families, and community members. The building has become a hub of resources for both those directly connected to it and residents of Northfield's north side. Strong community connections have enabled the NCEC to serve a diverse population, with growing interest in its programs leading to waitlists for some offerings.