



NORTHSIDE
ACHIEVEMENT
ZONE

NAZ RESULTS SUMMARY



RESILIENCE | STRENGTH | PROMISE

We have all used words like “challenging,” “unprecedented,” and “devastating” to describe the events of 2020, but nowhere have they been more true than in North Minneapolis, named by the CDC as a designated COVID-19 hotspot. From the layered traumas of the murder of George Floyd at the hands of police, continued extraordinary levels of violence, and the resulting community unrest, Northside families are left reeling yet still resilient.

The Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ) collaborated with our more than 30 partner organizations on a weekly basis to understand and support the evolving needs of families. NAZ staff and leadership pivoted to meet these new needs while maintaining existing commitments to academic achievement and ending the opportunity gap for Northside scholars. While much is unknown about the long-term effects of distance learning and these new traumas, the following report shares what NAZ was able to learn from available data, surveys, and interviews.

CONTEXT FOR 2019-20 DATA

To analyze scholar academic progress, we made some planned changes and pivoted for others.

NEW & DIFFERENT MEASURES AND DATA

- Our first year using a universal assessment tool across all our early childhood sites —Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG).
- We used MAP or FAST for K-8 reading and math analyses as Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) data was not available due to COVID-19.
- We surveyed our families and conducted interviews with our school leaders as well as focus groups with our collaborative partners, coaches, and families.



TIMING IS BEFORE COVID-19

- Early childhood and K-8 results are for Winter 2020, when academic measures were available.

CAUTIONS

- Small “n’s” (number in a data set) for some metrics.

NAZ AND PARTNERS ARE INNOVATING WHILE FACING CHALLENGES

INNOVATION

Greater collaboration across NAZ partners, coaches & schools
Recognizing unique, evolving scholar and family needs
Personalizing responses

CHALLENGES

No best practices for providing services during a pandemic
Scholar engagement, attendance, and motivation
Meeting all family & scholar needs
Ongoing technology problems

FAMILIES SHOW RESILIENCE & STRUGGLE

FAMILIES ARE SHOWING RESILIENCE

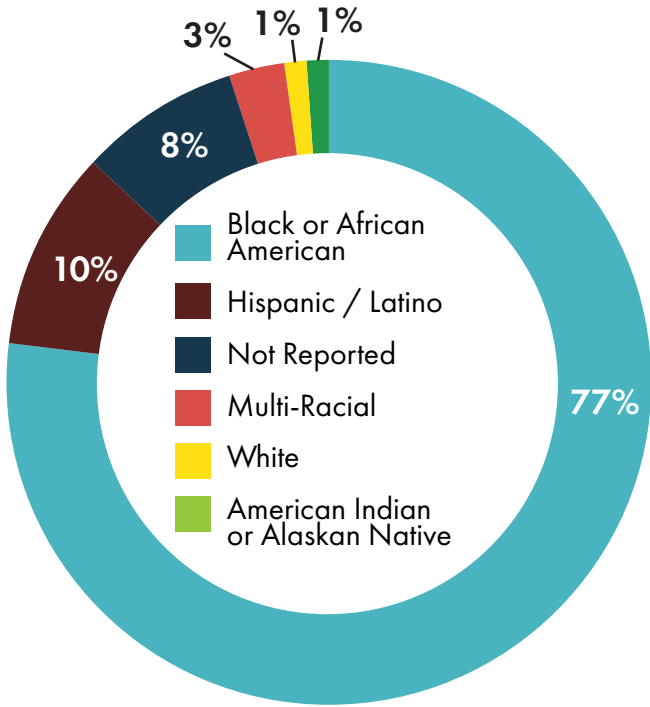
Coping
Being financially strategic
Engaging in health and wellness activities
Seeking religious and spiritual support
Increasing involvement with scholars' education, teachers and schools



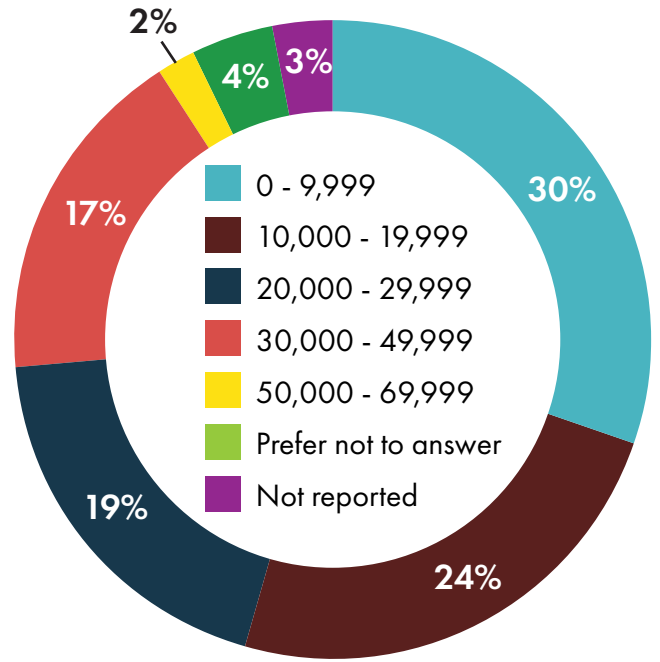
FAMILIES ARE STRUGGLING

Overwhelmed with balancing multiple needs
Stressed and anxious
Experiencing extraordinary needs every day

DEMOGRAPHICS

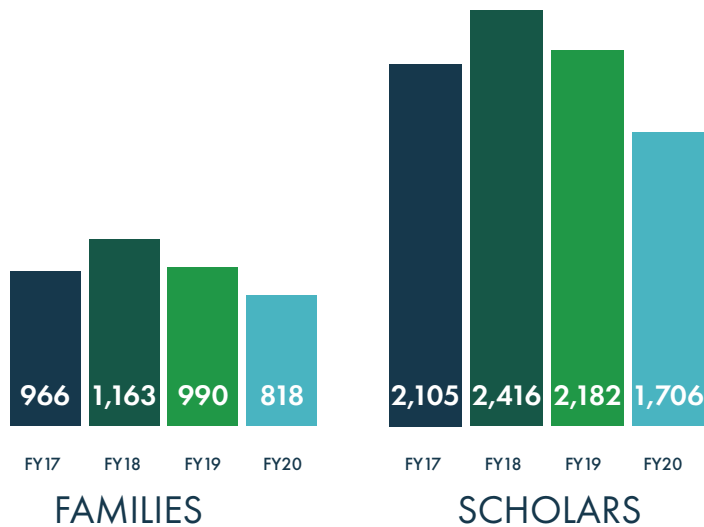


RACE



ANNUAL INCOME

PARTICIPATION



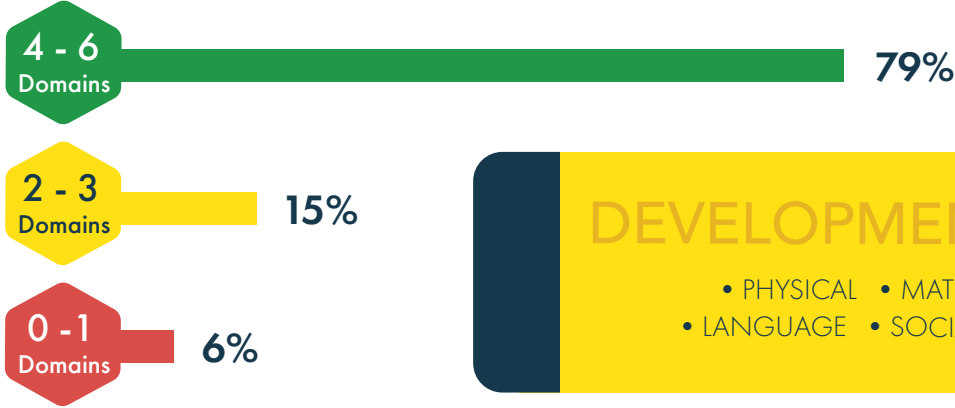
The decline in FY20 participation was due to myriad factors, as families moved from the Northside, no longer engaged with a NAZ anchor partner, or focused on basic needs. Due to COVID-19, summer program participation began in FY21, not FY20.



NAZ SCHOLARS ARE MAKING PROGRESS

EARLY CHILDHOOD

NAZ EC scholars who were assessed are meeting/exceeding developmental expectations

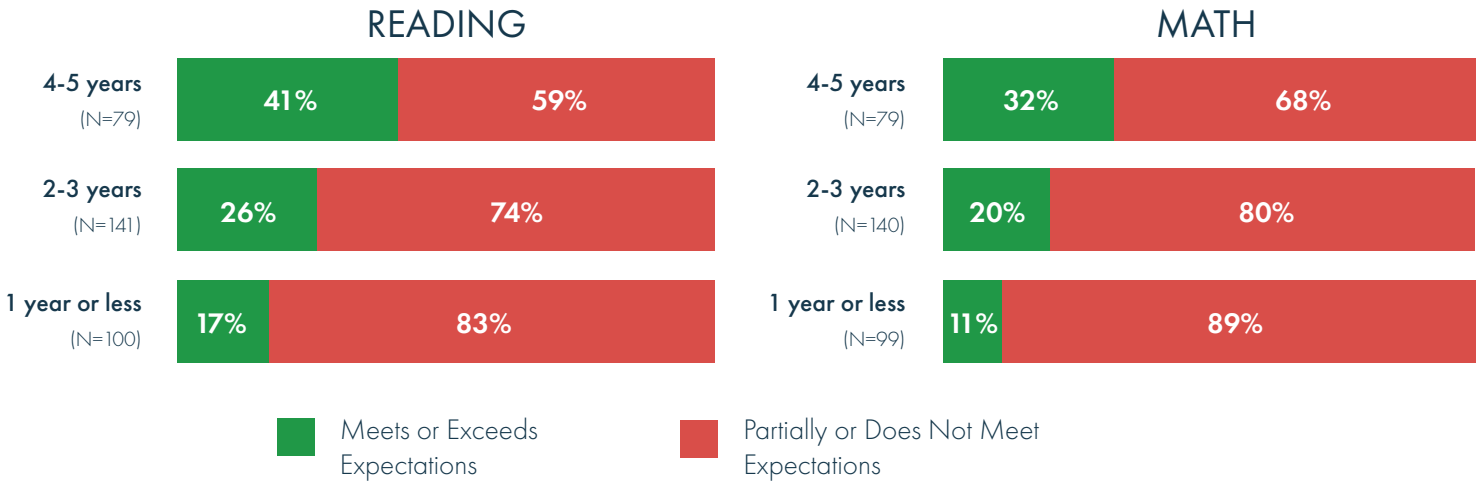


DEVELOPMENTAL DOMAINS

- PHYSICAL
- MATHEMATICS
- COGNITIVE
- LANGUAGE
- SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL
- LITERACY

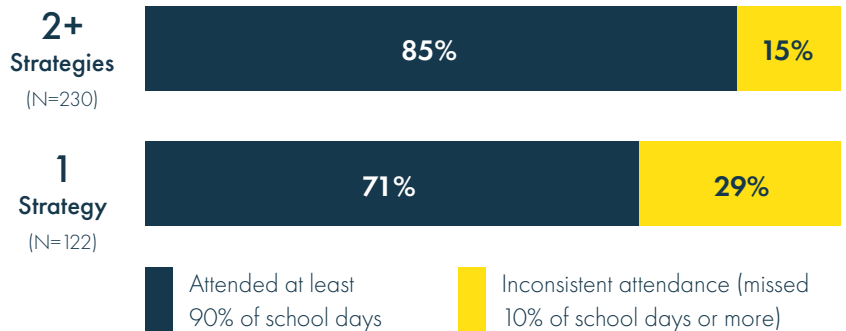
MORE NAZ IS BETTER

MAP/FAST Reading and Math Proficiency by Years of NAZ grades 3-8 (2015-2016 +)



IMPROVED HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

2019-20 rates of consistent attendance by number of NAZ strategies, grades 9-12



NOTE: Attendance results refer to pre-distance-learning portion of the school year (Q1, 2, & 3)

NAZ COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS

\$4.26 M

**MILLION IN PANDEMIC
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**
(March 2020 to May 2021)



ZERO LEARNING LOSS

Launched a one-to-one virtual literacy tutoring network for K-5 scholars in partnership with MN Reading Corps and Reading Partners; offered to all NAZ and partner families; leveraged Medtronic Black employee network as volunteers.

Granted 72 early childhood scholarships.

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE



1229 TECH DEVICES
DISTRIBUTED



1629 NOISE
CANCELLING
HEADPHONES



274 HOMES INSTALLED
W/ BROADBAND
INTERNET

EMERGENCY RELIEF ECONOMIC RECOVERY



440k CASH ASSISTANCE TO
450 NAZ FAMILIES



RENT RELIEF TO
87 NAZ FAMILIES

WEEKLY FOOD DELIVERY



120 Families



80 Partner Families



Expanding to an additional
100 Northside families

MENTAL HEALTH



NAZ Family Academy classes moved to virtual format and added support groups at the request of parents.



Mental health referrals to Washburn Center for Children for telehealth counseling.

PROTECTING OUR MOST VULNERABLE

110k

DISPOSABLE MASKS
TO NAZ PARTNERS

37k

REUSABLE
MASKS

4k to NAZ families

22k to Northside Partners

11k delivered to Northside homes



#StayCoveredTogether campaign on social media, out-of-home, radio and print resulting in 28M impressions in Dec- April.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the immediate needs of NAZ families and scholars changed dramatically. We responded quickly and intentionally with the NAZ Family Emergency Fund. Support came from local foundations, corporations and individuals from our community and across the globe. Major funding was received through a partnership with the Harlem Children's Zone focused on mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on Black communities, and from UnitedHealth Group for a weekly home food delivery program. As of April 2021, the fund has provided more than \$4.26 million in emergency response resources to North Minneapolis.

FAMILY ACADEMY ONLINE

PARENTS WHO COMPLETE COLLEGE- BOUND SCHOLARS OR COLLEGE-BOUND BABIES CLASSES FEEL:

- More confident about supporting their scholar's development and success in school
- Empowered to advocate for their scholar
- Better able to promote their scholar's social-emotional development
- More thoughtful and intentional about their parenting
- Likely to recommend Family Academy to other parents



KEY TAKEAWAYS

The impact of the pandemic and distance learning, the civil unrest and community violence on NAZ families and scholars are yet to be fully understood.

We know that scholars are experiencing mental health declines and also significant learning loss.

The measurement of student learning and the role of standardized testing in gauging student progress is open for discussion.

Innovative approaches are required and it is imperative that scholars' needs are at the center to determine how best to support them and their families in the current environment so they can recover and succeed.

NAZ will continue to work with our partners to adapt our cradle-to-college pipeline and holistic wrap-around services to ensure that all scholars graduate from high school career and college-ready.



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