



## Nashville After Zone Alliance

### What is the Nashville After Zone Alliance?

- NAZA is a **network of coordinated afterschool programming for Metro's middle-school students**.
- NAZA is targeting those students for whom available programs are not accessible, due to cost or transportation issues.
- NAZA, a **partnership** among the Mayor's Office, Metro Schools, and other existing youth-serving groups, is modeled on successful efforts in other cities like Providence, Rhode Island.
- NAZA is organized around **geographically-defined zones**.
  - ✿ The pilot Northeast Zone, launched in early 2010 with Martha O'Bryan Center as the Coordinating Agency, is the area contained within the Maplewood and Stratford clusters.
  - ✿ The South Central Zone, encompassing the Glencliff and Overton clusters, launched spring semester 2011 with the PENCIL Foundation as its Coordinating Agency.
  - ✿ A third zone in the Pearl-Cohn/Whites Creek area is on track to launch in 2012.
- NAZA **uses existing providers**, providing resources to help them deliver high-quality programming to more young people, either on-site at the middle schools or at an established community-based site.

### What does NAZA look like?

- **Appealing and meaningful enrichment activities in safe and structured environments**
  - ✿ includes a daily balance of academic supports with "enhancements" such as sports and fitness, the arts, service learning opportunities, and life skills
  - ✿ supporting youth leadership and character development
  - ✿ with guidance from caring, well-prepared adults
- **Coordinated scheduling, marketing, recruitment, transportation and student tracking**, within a geographic area, to increase access for the students and efficiencies for the providers
- NAZA initially is engaging **200-250 students per zone**, which effectively doubles the number of students in structured afterschool programs in these areas.

### Why is NAZA needed?

- Mayor Dean believes that **Nashville recognizes the importance of education to its future** and knows that education can't stop when the bell rings. The school day only accounts for about 20% of children's waking hours.
- Meaningful extended learning opportunities are especially critical in the middle school years. **School achievement at the end of middle school** is a better predictor of eventual college or career readiness at graduation than anything that happens academically in high school.
- It is risky for this age group to be left unsupervised afterschool. There is a dramatic rise in **juvenile crime** as well as **child victimization** between 3:00 and 7:00pm.
- Current data show that **only 10% of our 25,000 public middle-school students participate in structured afterschool programming**.

### Who oversees NAZA?

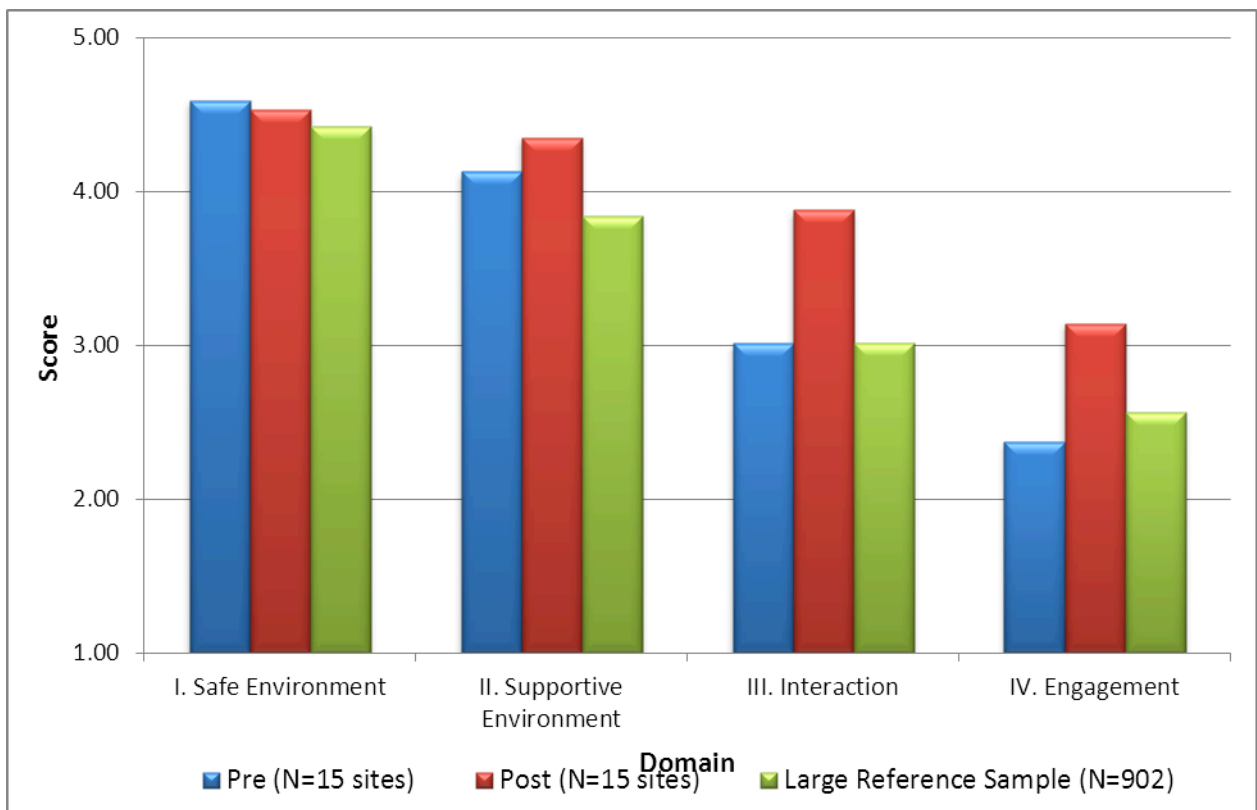
- NAZA was planned, launched, and continues to be incubated in the Mayor's Office. It has evolved into a public-private partnership, with heavy school district leadership.
- **25 youth-serving agencies and Metro departments** began the planning process in 2009, which has evolved into workgroups on program quality, data management, communications, transportation, and

resource development. These support the Leadership Council, **chaired by Mayor Dean with Metro Schools Director Jesse Register as vice-chair.**

- **Metro Schools** provides as in-kind support its facilities, transportation and IT supports, and its marketing/ communications tools.

### Results to Date

- The two zones consistently fill their available slots, enrolling students from Bailey, Gra-Mar, Jere Baxter, Litton, East Literature, Wright, Cameron, Croft, McMurray, and Oliver middle schools.
- **Average daily attendance** exceeded our 70% target for enrollees.
- Schools struggling under No Child Left Behind reported increased participation in federally-mandated afterschool tutoring when it was braided with NAZA programming. In the NE zone, **50% of these students increased their reading ability by at least one grade level.**
- **Virtually all polled parents wanted NAZA to save a spot for their child the following year.**
- The Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality conducts an annual evaluation of NAZA and its program assessment and quality improvement process. Key findings for both years:
  - 🌟 **The quality of instructional supports and opportunities improved substantially.**
  - 🌟 **Program managers became more effective change leaders, and all staff reported extremely high satisfaction with the program improvement process.**
  - 🌟 **Youth reported high satisfaction with programs.**
- As a result of this program quality improvement, managers reported these changes in youth:
  - 🌟 *“Improvements in self-motivation, consistent attendance, respectful to adults, eager to assist peers, homework completion, and a sense of belonging in the program.”*
  - 🌟 *“Youth are more engaged and feel a better sense of ownership of the program.”*
- **Program quality increased significantly.** Greatest improvement was in the areas of interaction and engagement, which are crucial to attracting and retaining 10-14 year-olds. See figure below, where on the 0-5 scale, 5 indicates the highest quality.



## Plan for Continued Expansion

- A Metro appropriation of \$400,000 launched the first zone in early 2010. In addition to the MNPS support, other community partners leveraged more than \$100,000 through federal and grant funding.
- In FY11, \$600,000 in **Metro funding**, matched with \$250,000 in **private dollars** and an equivalent of in-kind from community partners, sustained **two zones, serving almost 500 Metro middle-school students**.
- Base Metro funding at \$800,300 will support the two zones during 2011-12, while NAZA secures funding for the third zone to launch fall semester, 2012.
- In the **Northeast Zone**
  - ✿ Martha O'Bryan Center and the YMCA will continue on-site at Bailey, Litton, and Jere Baxter middle schools. The YW's Girls Inc will begin programming at Gra-Mar.
  - ✿ Y-CAP YMCA, Martha O'Bryan, and Village CDC are operating community-based sites.
- In the **South Central Zone**
  - ✿ PENCIL Foundation, YMCA, YWCA, and the Center for Refugees and Immigrants of TN are on-site at Cameron, Wright, and Oliver middle schools.
  - ✿ Metro Parks operates a program at Coleman Regional Community Center.
  - ✿ Center for Refugees and Immigrants of TN operates a program in the Stonebrook apartment complex.
  - ✿ Catholic Charities has a program for refugees in a local church near McMurray.
  - ✿ NAZA is working with the Salahadeen Center, World Relief, and African Leadership to offer additional targeted programming in the future.
- **Updated information** is available at the NAZA web site, [www.nashvillez.org](http://www.nashvillez.org).