NAZ Seal of Effectiveness Overview

"If we are not effective, we will revise our plans until we get it right."

NAZ is truly a "learning collaborative," with all partners and stakeholders driven by progress toward our benchmark outcomes for student achievement. Evaluation and measurement is infused into all aspects of our work. The NAZ Seal of Effectiveness process is designed to maintain or move all NAZ partners toward evidence-based practices in all aspects of our Continuum of solutions. We are committed to practices that start strong and get better over time.
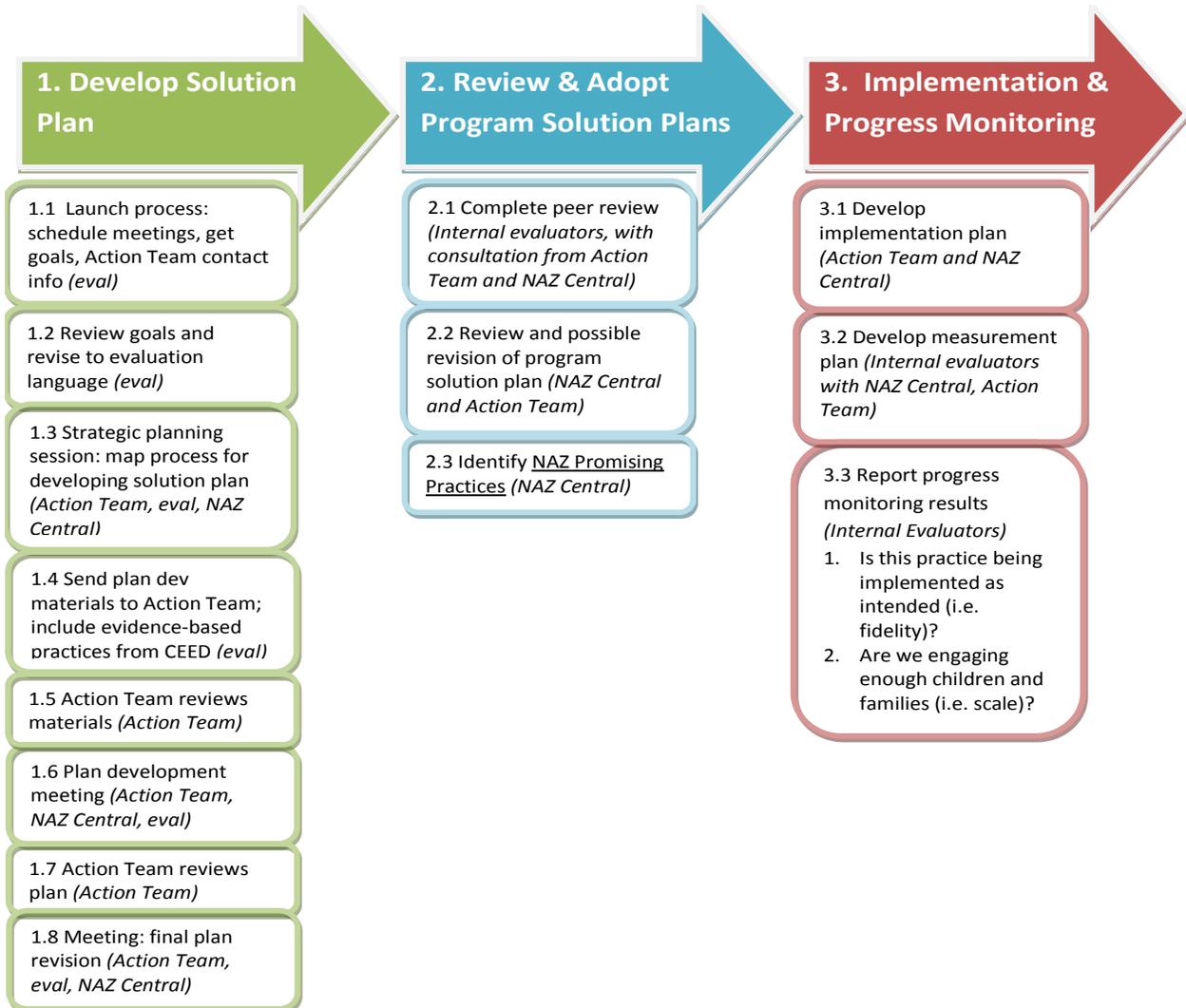
What is the NAZ Seal of Effectiveness?

The NAZ Seal of Effectiveness is a continuous improvement process that ensures all services and supports within the NAZ Continuum feature elements of known, effective practice, and that these services and supports systematically improve as NAZ grows.

We monitor quality and early signs of effectiveness on both a program level and programs, and with individual children and families. Adjustments are made in real time to ensure that we are driving toward our benchmarks, such as kindergarten readiness.

How Does the Seal of Effectiveness Process Work?

Our internal, formative quality evaluation proceeds in five stages through a partnership between NAZ Central, Action Area partners, the University of Minnesota's CEED (internal evaluators) and Promise Neighborhood Technical Assistance.

1. **Solution Area Goals** are developed for each major element of the NAZ Continuum; and a **Strategic Planning Session** is held to map a customized process for creating the Solution Plan.

2. Action Area teams are provided with **best-practice research and literature** to reference as they begin Solution Plan development.

3. The program **Solution Plan** is developed to describe practices that will be implemented to achieve the Solution Area Goals, as informed by the empirical literature, current program activities, and front-end input from technical assistance.

4. **A Peer Review** is completed, with independent experts offering their appraisal of the Solution Plan and its use of evidence-based practices.

5. **NAZ Adoption of Promising Practices,** as reflected in the original Solution Plan and revisions based on peers' recommendations.

1. Develop Solution Plan → **2. Review & Adopt Program Solution Plans** → **3. Implementation & Progress Monitoring**

Stage 1: Develop Solution Plan

1.1 Launch process: schedule meetings, get goals, Action Team contact info *(eval)*

1.2 Review goals and revise to evaluation language *(eval)*

1.3 Strategic planning session: map process for developing solution plan *(Action Team, eval, NAZ Central)*

1.4 Send plan dev materials to Action Team; include evidence-based practices from CEED *(eval)*

1.5 Action Team reviews materials *(Action Team)*

1.6 Plan development meeting *(Action Team, NAZ Central, eval)*

1.7 Action Team reviews plan *(Action Team)*

1.8 Meeting: final plan revision *(Action Team, eval, NAZ Central)*

Stage 2: Review & Adopt Program Solution Plans

2.1 Complete peer review *(Internal evaluators, with consultation from Action Team and NAZ Central)*

2.2 Review and possible revision of program solution plan *(NAZ Central and Action Team)*

2.3 Identify NAZ Promising Practices *(NAZ Central)*

Stage 3: Implementation & Progress Monitoring

3.1 Develop implementation plan *(Action Team and NAZ Central)*

3.2 Develop measurement plan *(Internal evaluators with NAZ Central, Action Team)*

3.3 Report progress monitoring results *(Internal Evaluators)*
1. Is this practice being implemented as intended (i.e. fidelity)?
2. Are we engaging enough children and families (i.e. scale)?

Solution Plan Development

Each Action Team or Anchor Partner draws from scientifically-validated proven or promising procedures to identify services elements within their own area of expertise for their solution within the NAZ Continuum. They work closely with NAZ leaders and staff to develop evidence-based Solution Plans that fit within the NAZ implementation process.

Supported by the empirical literature and sound measurement principles, CEED helps to define the component parts of each Solution Plan: the active ingredients, necessary conditions, and the expected frequency and dosage for each active ingredient. Once complete, these Solution Plans are reviewed by a panel of content experts who provide further comments on the soundness of the plan.

Seal of Effectiveness Process

After Solution Plans undergo peer review and are refined, NAZ officially designates them as "NAZ Promising Practices." Each Promising Practice becomes the default expectation for services and supports for NAZ children, families, or partners in that particular goal area. Plans that do not embrace available evidence-based practices are marked for further development or justification, and "promising" (best-practice) or "proven" (empirically validated) practices that do not produce expected results are slated for careful review and revision.

Implementation and Progress Monitoring to Reach Benchmarks

NAZ drives progress toward clear goals for each <u>program</u> and each enrolled <u>child</u> through "Progress Monitoring," which tracks toward end-outcome benchmarks.

Internal evaluation data will be collected through the centralized NAZ Connect achievement and planning tool. Once a Solution Plan is implemented, it will be closely monitored to ensure that 1) all NAZ families who need services receive them; 2) the plan is being implemented properly; 3) we see early evidence that the plan is driving toward benchmark outcomes. All of this information will be provided to NAZ Leadership and Action Area Partners and be used to improve services over time. *For example, are all children participating in Out-of-School Time programming showing sufficient improvement in math and reading?*

Data will also be reported on an individual student level. Each NAZ child will be tested at regular intervals to measure academic progress. If the child is not making sufficient progress toward benchmark outcomes, their NAZ Connector will adjust their support plan accordingly. *For example, based on language and early literacy progress monitoring data, is four-year-old Jevon J. on track to be ready for kindergarten?*

NAZ Continuum