



National
Center for the
Development
of Boys

THE ORGANIZATION

The National Center for the Development of Boys (the "Center") is a non-profit organization that helps educators, counselors, parents, coaches, and others to positively change the lives of boys who struggle to survive and thrive. From helping parents, educators, coaches, and other professionals better understand what boys need, to facilitating change-programs in schools and communities, the Center develops its own research and collaborates with other research and science-based organizations to help families and institutions meet the challenges our boys face today.

The Center is affiliated with and housed on the campus of McCallie School, an all-boys school founded in 1905 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. From this location, the Center can draw from McCallie's expertise and experience in educating boys by utilizing McCallie as a "living laboratory" of more than 900 boys in an educational environment. At the same time, the Center maintains independence from McCallie in many ways, including its employment of its own executive director and the service of its own Board of Directors and Advisory Board. From this position, the Center works with agencies and organizations throughout the U.S.

The National Center for the Development of Boys

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THE PROBLEM

Some boys are doing very well today, but too many boys are underperforming, underachieving, and deeply confused. When compared to girls, boys are:

- lagging an average of 1.5 years behind in reading and literacy;
- more often diagnosed with learning disabilities and learning difficulties;
- falling significantly behind in grades and test scores throughout the U.S and the industrial world;
- more frequently disciplined with little cause and very often placed in the criminal justice system;
- outpaced in college degrees, graduate matriculation, and employment in many sectors;
- increasingly mentally ill with a rate of suicide four times higher than girls;
- disconnected from empathic and crucial leadership roles in family and community;
- losing themselves in unhealthy lifestyles, from substance abuse to electronics and porn addictions.

We have reached a critical mass of male distress that must be addressed now.



CALL TO ACTION

The Center believes that we can do a better job raising and educating boys and that a national organization for the development of boys can help boys thrive as:

- parents, mentors, coaches, counselors, and others understand and appreciate boys' gender-specific developmental needs;
- schools and teachers inculcate proven methods for teaching and nurturing boys effectively;
- adults are inspired and trained to be effective role models, coaches, and mentors to boys in communities; and
- boys themselves understand how they can discover wise guidance and a sense of calling and purpose.

In this context, the Center is not only poised to lead a national conversation on the development of boys but also facilitate positive social change through specific programs and partnerships.



THE FOCUS

The Center's focus is divided into three imperatives:

- Research and resource dissemination (white papers, newsletters, studies and meta-analyses, a library of resources, leading edge research at McCallie and through pilot programs)
- Community and family support (coaching of parents and mentors, consulting with sports and athletic organizations, violence reduction programs and partnerships in disadvantaged areas, summits and events for parents and faith communities)
- School and institutional efficacy development (pilot programs and sustainable interventions in schools and institutions, teacher training, training for mental health and social services workers, and collaboration with sports and athletic organizations)

By hosting scholars and Fellows at McCallie and generating leading edge research on the development of boys, the Center provides research on best practices that can be replicated throughout the nation. In the next year, the Center hopes to commission an independent academic study of McCallie School that will establish McCallie as a “Lab School.” During, before, and after the end of that study, McCallie and the Center will continue to build its database of experts, research papers, and resource materials. As these are codified they will be provided to the public and academic and community organizations for dissemination.

By training mentors and helping other organizations to provide mentors, the Center will assist families and communities in filling up developmental gaps. In collaboration with other organizations such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America, the Boys and Girls Club, Boy Scouts of America, and local faith communities, the Center can substantially support and enhance existing and new community mentoring. In pilot programs to be developed over the next year, the Center expects to establish and implement leading edge approaches to discovering and supporting mentors in many of the most disadvantaged communities.

By collaborating with McCallie teachers and trainers as well as established and successful training organizations such as its training partner, the Gurian Institute, the Center will facilitate school-based pilot programs in which best practices for training, leadership, and counseling will be disseminated. As Dr. Michael Gurian, author of [Boys and Girls Learn Differently](#), recently noted, “Most educators, teachers, and coaches now agree, American communities are not well trained in how to help boys learn, thus boys fall behind in nearly all educational, character development and social-emotional categories. This is especially true in the lowest performing neighborhoods and schools.” The Center will lead the way in helping organizations, schools, and communities to develop and support systemic change models that really work.



SERVICES AND INVESTMENT NEEDS OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BOYS

The Center has defined various categories of collaboration. More information on each category is available upon request (please contact Troy Kemp, Executive Director at tkemp@understandingboys.org). Each area is grounded in the Center's commitment not only to public service but also to efficient, successful, and cost-effective operation.

I. OPERATIONAL COSTS FOR INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

A primary fundraising goal for the Center is to become institutionally sustainable for the next five years and beyond. Funds will be needed in order to sponsor the desired programs and ensure their positive outcomes and to sustain the institution with an executive director, an administrative assistant, a grant writer, consultancy, and, as needed in the future, a special projects coordinator for various and expanding pilots and conferences.

2. RESOURCES AND RESEARCH

The Center is in the process of collecting, curating, and synthesizing existing research on boys that has already been undertaken worldwide; the Center is also beginning to observe and analyze trends, identify needs, and provide new research on best-practices for those working with boys. This research and these resources will be science-based, research-oriented, and strategies-focused.

A. Produce and Distribute Intellectual Assets, including Digital Assets

The Center is developing a white paper and an online "library" and "store" of resources from leading academics, thinkers, and practitioners for use by parents, educators, coaches, and others via the Center's website. In this and other related ways, the Center will gradually become a well-known clearinghouse for any and all worthy resources related to boys' development.

The Center will produce and distribute other assets, including monthly newsletters and digital assets (e.g. a video series), as well as social media posts about different aspects of boys' development and learning. Some of these may also include editorials or articles about boys in national publications and media outlets.

Areas of focus include:

- brain development in boys and its implications on teaching, coaching, and learning;
- effective teaching and coaching methods for boys;
- effective parenting and mentoring of boys at different ages;
- the best curriculum for boys of different ages, including the role of the athletics, the arts, and vocational education;
- the role of boys and men in families;
- the role of boys and men as citizens and in society;
- the portrayal of boys and men in culture;
- character development, career, and calling;
- the role of faith communities in male life; and



- boys' social media and technology use.

SERVICES AND INVESTMENT NEEDS OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BOYS

B. Host Fellows/Researchers and Interns

New research will emerge in a number of ways, including the Center's development of its brand as a "hub" of contact among researchers. Individual researchers can visit the Center and McCallie to discuss and share their research and ideas about boys. As they do, they will develop additional areas for future research.

C. Provide Parent and Community Coaching Resources

Parents and others are in need of expert coaching in how to work with boys and young men. The Center hopes to sponsor and develop programs that help parents and extended family members via a network of certified coaches from the Center and its allies. These coaches can assist parents, coaches, and mentors by phone, online, or in person.

D. Provide Instructional and School Culture Coaching for Educators

Educators are in need of expert coaching in how to work with boys as well as how to create and maintain a boy-friendly and boy-successful school culture. The Center hopes to offer instructional coaching via a network of certified coaches from the Center and its allies. These coaches can assist educators and schools by phone, online, or in person.

3. PARTNER WITH ATHLETIC ORGANIZATIONS

The research of the Center establishes the importance of sports and athletics in youth development outcomes from a scientific perspective. Built on this foundation, the Center offers consulting and training for sports and athletic organizations at all levels, from youth leagues to professional sports. Encompassing male development in all aspects, this consulting is science-based and evidence-focused, providing insight, training, and programs to assist athletic and sports organizations in not only developing a winning attitude in boys and young men but also their character, their sense of purpose, and their desire to engage positively in school and in their communities.

Thus the Center's alliances and applications include targeted and age-specific training of coaches and athletic mentors throughout the youth development landscape. A professional sports organization, an academic athletics department, or an athletic Foundation can contract with the Center team to provide consulting and training to its own teams and/or fund the Center to provide training, mentoring, and consulting in a community or organization of its choice in its local area. If the organization chooses to have the Center become involved in a local pilot, that pilot can include specific mentoring in the fulfillment of public purpose and service.



SERVICES AND INVESTMENT NEEDS OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BOYS

4. SPONSOR AND ESTABLISH PILOT PROGRAMS

With the help of the Gurian Institute, with whom the Center has formed a national training partnership, the Center will develop and sponsor trainings and pilot programs in schools and communities in need across the country. These pilots will exemplify best practices and provide their targets with change agents in educating and raising boys. As these pilots gather data, the Center will share data nationwide and work to expand the successful pilots into replicable programs in other communities.

The pilots will focus on these deliverables:

- Closing achievement gaps
- Increasing student engagement
- Increasing teacher effectiveness
- Promoting a safe school culture
- Lowering discipline referrals
- Closing gender gaps
- Decreasing rates of bullying and relational violence
- Lowering dropout rates
- Improving teacher-parent relationships
- Turning around low performing schools
- Improving digital citizenship
- Positively affecting health and wellness among students
- Increasing literacy and STEM achievement

These pilots can occur in co-educational and single-gender schools.

5. SPONSORING MENTORING ASSISTANCE AND VIOLENCE REDUCTION PROGRAMS

There is a deep need in communities for successful mentoring programs, especially in neighborhoods of severe disadvantage. The Center can become a national leader and ally in the mentoring movement that is sweeping the U.S. by potentially sponsoring mentors and/or mentoring programs. It can provide scholarships/donations to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America, as well as sponsoring mentors through other mentoring agencies. It can also expand the already successful Coaches, Cops and Community program which brings together police, sports/athletic coaches, and key community members to assist in mentoring disadvantaged youth. The individuals in all of the Center's outreach can be trained by the Center team in best practices for mentoring, counseling, and working with boys and male youth.



SERVICES AND INVESTMENT NEEDS OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BOYS

6. SPONSOR AND PROVIDE CONFERENCES, SPEAKING EVENTS, AND SPEAKERS

Events hosted and/or sponsored by the Center can raise awareness, provide significant resources to families, educators, and community members, and promote the public purpose of the Center. The Center hopes to sponsor guest speakers in Chattanooga as well as in other locations around the country. The Center's own assets, including its Executive Director, will also travel to various communities to speak and present to adults and students at schools, community organizations, and conferences. The events and conferences will focus on the development, learning, and nurturing of boys.

7. CONSULTING/TRAINING FOR BOYS' ACADEMIES AND OTHER SINGLE GENDER INSTITUTIONS

The Center can provide consulting/coaching to new or existing boys academies and other single-gender institutions in best practices for site design, curriculum development, pitfalls in hiring, leadership and staffing suggestions, and insight into appropriate expectations of students. In partnership with the Gurian Institute, the Center can also sponsor in depth training and professional development for the faculty, staff, and community.