



MINNEAPOLIS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Urban Education. Global Citizens.

October 1, 2015

Dear VOA High School Families,

Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) is dedicated to providing all students with an excellent education so that each child can succeed in school and in life. To ensure your child's success, we have set high standards that are reflected in what is taught in our classrooms. In the coming school year we will look at multiple assessment measures that indicate how our school is succeeding. This will ensure that we reach our goal of all children succeeding in school and in life.

This year VOA High School continues as a focus school under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The designation is based on student performance data that placed our school among the ten percent of schools making the largest contribution to the state's achievement gap. We received the rating last year based upon our graduation rate and the designation remains with us for three years.

This school year will be the second in a three-year process of school improvement. Planning for this process will be aimed at improving the performance of all student groups. While many of the improvement activities will be targeted, other changes may take place across the school.

Families and communities are at the center of our school improvement plan. You are invited to attend our annual State of the School and Title I info night. The purpose of the State of the School and Title I annual info night is to provide information to parents/guardians about the current state of the school and the School Improvement Plan. The school will share its priorities, goals and strategies for improvement as well as how families can be engaged throughout the year. This meeting will also clarify the purpose of Title I and the ongoing communication parents/guardians can expect to receive regarding their child's progress. If the meeting has not already taken place or you have not received this information, contact us for the specific date and time of the meeting.

Your engagement and support is critical to your child's success. We encourage you to contact your child's teacher(s) to learn how you can best support the work your child is doing in the classroom. Here are several things you can do to support your child's education:

- Make sure your child attends school every day, on time.
- Provide a quiet place for your child to do homework or read.
- Talk with your child about school.

We look forward to your continuing engagement and collaboration to make this a great school year! Please contact us at 612-375-0700 for more information about our school improvement efforts or how to get involved.

Sincerely,

Wendy Smith
Director