

Family Engagement Plan (FEP), 2025-26					
School Information					
School:	VOA High School				
Principal:	Wendy Smith				
Family Liaison:	Wendy Smith, Matthew Riccio, Johnny Hedgepeth				
Family Liaison Phone Number:	612-278-4235				
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This plan was developed in partnership with families and approved on:	10.14-15.25 & 2.12.26 and throughout the year				
Introduction to the Family Engagement Plan	We need the help of our families to reach our school goals for student success, achievement and wellbeing. Below is our plan for how we'll meaningfully engage families in equitable and accessible ways during the 2025-26 school year. There are specific goals we'll work to achieve and ways we plan to achieve each goal listed below.				
Mission & Vision					
School Mission Statement	Volunteers of America of Minnesota's mission is to help people build hope, resilience and well-being in their lives. VOA High School's mission is to serve the whole student and to support individual growth.				
School Vision Statement	VOAMN envisions communities in which all lives are uplifted. Our organization prioritizes the values of compassion, respect and integrity. VOA High School envisions every student becoming actively involved in their education, their school, their community and, above all, their own success.				
Family & Community Voice and Engagement					
How family & community voices are gathered at our school	Families receive 3 week updates from teaching staff regarding academic progress and attendance, conferences are held 3 days each year and families are invited to share feedback at any time throughout the year via phone, email, or in person. Staff arrange meetings with students and families to discuss issues that impact them and are available at all times to meet if students and families request this.				
The primary challenges/areas of need identified by families and community members at our school	VOA families want transparency about credit, progress, attendance and to know we are supporting their youth in a way that makes the high school diploma a reality. Families continue to ask for the best support networks for their youth and often include the need for supports for out of school concerns and challenges. Many families express concerns about their youth and level of engagement with school and VOA staff respond to these concerns with all resources available.				
The primary hopes and aspirations identified by families & community members at our school	Families, community and staff identify that the high school diploma is a main aspiration and the next priority is a plan for what happens after high school. All stakeholders desire a school community where growth is possible!				
Family Engagement Strategies					
FEP Strategy Name	All families feel welcome in our school and have equal access to opportunities to be involved in their students' education				
We will host the following community-building and cultural events this year:	Open House, 8/28/25 (evening event), hispanic Heritage Family Dinner during fall conferences, 10/14/25 (evening event 4-7pm), Native American Cultural Event, 11/25/25 (mid-day event), African American heritage dinner during mid-year conferences, 2/12/26, End of Quarter graduation events as well as the end of year Graduation celebration, 6/04/26. This year a student and staff committee will be designing some events for families, all for the purpose of building a strong school community. Events will be advertised				
We will notify families of how to get involved in the events listed on our FEP, how to access school staff, and how to volunteer through:	Families, upon enrollment receive a school calendar with family events highlighted. Family friendly school goals are mailed to households at the end of Quarter 1 as well as a staff list with contacts. Our staff list with contact information is posted on our VOA High School website. VOA High School uses a automatic phone messaging (School Messenger) to update families regularly about what is happening at the school. The school's main office has important information for families available at all times and 3				
We will ensure all families can participate by providing the following:	Interpreters at family events (Somali and Spanish) and language line for times when interpreters are not available, bus passes so families can get to events, cost free, child supervision during conferences, events at different times of the day and at a variety of locations, and offers of alternative times to connect if families cannot make the scheduled events.				
FEP Strategy Name	All families are informed of the steps our school is taking to improve student outcomes and achieve equity				
(Title I Schools) We will host our annual State of the School (Title I) meeting on:	On 10/14/25 (evening) and 10/15/25 (morning) families and students may access Title I information at VOA High School. The state of the school power point will be presented on repeat in English throughout the entire time conferences are happening. The School director will also be available to receive feedback in a structured way about our Improvement and Involvement plan and interpreters will participate if needed. The state of the school powerpoint will also be available on or VOA HS website at this time.				
We will inform families of the steps our school is taking to improve student outcomes and achieve equity through:	Making our family friendly SIP available to families in our main office, via a Quarter 1 mailing, on our school's website, in a slide presentation at 3 conference dates (Fall and Mid-year), and through one on one sessions with the director at conferences.				
FEP Strategy Name	Families will play an important role in developing our School Improvement and Family Engagement plans, and will provide valued input on how we spend our resources.				
We will get family input on our School Improvement Plan for next year in:	Families provide feedback to the school on a regular basis as we make contact every three weeks (at a minimum). All input is welcomed and acted upon when possible. In the Spring when we measure our improvement goals. Families are invited to provide input and feedback at all family events scheduled throughout the year. This feedback will be incorporated into our planning for the next school year.				
We will get family input on our Family Engagement Plan for next year in:	Families provide feedback to the school on a regular basis as we make contact every three weeks (at a minimum). All input is welcomed and acted upon when possible. In the Spring when we measure our improvement goals. Families are invited to provide input and feedback at all family events scheduled throughout the year. This feedback will be incorporated into our planning for the next school year.				
We will get family input on how we'll use our resources next year to support student achievement and engage families in:	Families will be invited to a meeting to provide input and feedback to discuss the challenges, strengths and determine how to allocate money for the upcoming school year. We seek feedback regarding what families feel are the best supports for their students. This feedback will help to make budget determinations for the next year.				
We will host regular Site Council meetings on:	Ongoing. When families are in the building for events, we will make surveys and Title I information available.				
FEP Strategy Name	All school staff members, family members, and students understand the important role they each play in making sure students achieve success at our school.				
(Title I Schools) We will get family input on our School-Family Compact for next year in:	Compact feedback is sought during the 3 formal conference dates during the school year: 10/14/25, 10/15/25 and 2/12/26. Families see the compact upon intake as new VOA families. At this time there is also an opportunity to receive feedback.				

(Title I Schools) We will share our School-Family Compact with families by:	Our school compact is mailed home at the end of Quarter 1 with our family friendly goals, staff contact list and ESSA information. It is also available in our front office, on our school's website and at all family events held at VOA HS throughout the year. New families enrolling at VOA High School sign the compact during their intake meetings.
FEP Strategy Name	<i>All families understand how to support their students' academic achievement.</i>
At the following events, we will help families understand our school curriculum, state standards, assessments their students take, and how we measure student achievement and success:	Fall Conferences and Title I sessions, 10/14 (evening) and 10/15/25 (morning). Mid-Year conferences and Title I sessions 2/12/26 (evening). Three week progress period information goes out to families and pathways for open communication about students grades, credits and how mastery is measured at VOA are established. All families meet with the school's counselor at intake to review credit recovery methods, credit requirements, timeline to graduation, etc.
In addition to the events above, we will also help families understand our school curriculum, state standards, assessments their students will take, and how we will measure student achievement and success in the following ways:	Ongoing: Families are informed via individual meetings and phone calls as needed. Families are invited to PBL Shares at the end of each quarter. Student work is on display, learning maps are available for each quarter as well. Through VOA HS Counselor connections (in-person or phone), quarterly Continual Learning Plan Check-ins occur and students get a close up look at the recovery process.. During school and family requested meetings, progress timeline and graduation is discussed. VOA publishes a Fall and Spring newsletter updating families about school programming, curriculum and assessments and achievement measurements. The VOA High School website allows families to learn about the school and has current information.
We will host the following academically-focused family events:	3 formal conference dates during the school year: 10/14/25, 10/15/25 and 2/12/26 and ongoing as needed and as requested by school and families. Project Based Learning Shares happen on the last day of the first 3 quarters of the school year.
FEP Strategy Name	<i>All staff will be trained on how to effectively partner with families.</i>
We will provide professional development on family engagement to our staff on the following topics this year:	As part of our culture and climate work and new this year, all staff continue working in subcommittees, which have the purpose of making VOA HS a welcoming community for all. Staff are not just showing up to family events, they are responsible for planning alongside our students, executing and inviting families and learning from the outcomes, attendance and feedback from families about what works. Subcommittees are made up of staff who resemble our student demographic. Professional Development for VOA staff will begin with a reorienting around the "VOA way" and will roll out to implementing a family centered version of this.