VOA HIGH SCHOOL
State of the School Information
2022 – 2023 School Year

VOA HIGH SCHOOL: WHO WE ARE
• Mission and vision
• Strengths
• Challenges

OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
• Goals and strategies
• Sharing student progress

TITLE I
• Overview of Title I
• How we’re using our Title I funds
• Title I and Family Engagement
VoA HIGH SCHOOL:
Who We Are

Mission
Volunteers of America 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 to support individual growth.

Vision
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.

Who We Are

VOA High School focuses upon student engagement, knowing it is the best indicator for school and future success. We aim to increase graduation rates (4, 5, 6 and 7 year), strengthen our Project Based Learning programming, develop partnerships that will connect our students to the world and make their learning relevant, build civic engagement connected to learning experiences, provide instruction to fill students' knowledge gaps so they are able to access high school standards more readily, and to support EL's through language, reading and writing support in every classroom regardless of content area. VOA HS's current enrollment includes seniors (78%) and 11th grade students (17%) and 10th grade students (5%).

Our student body is comprised of youth with diverse identities including Black, African American, Hmong, Latino, Native American and Caucasian students. 25-30% of students reside in homes where English is not the first language spoken. VOA HS offers students a variety of programming and flexibility in scheduling to make school more possible. Aside from Project Based Learning (PBL), we offer Independent Study, D3-College and concurrent high school enrollment, experiential learning in the wider Minnesota natural environment, Digital curriculum options and a hybrid schedule.
Our Current Reality

**Strengths**
VOA High School continues to show strength in relationship-building, engagement, offering effective student supports, serving EL's with licensed and bilingual full-time staff, supporting county-involved youth, offering multiple modes of learning and a robust amount of extra learning opportunities.

**Challenges**
Regular student attendance, low 4-year graduation rates, improving retention, making school relevant for older, working students with multiple barriers to school success. Getting our largest school demographic, male students of color, across the graduation finish line.

Our School Improvement Plan
What’s a School Improvement Plan?

Our school improvement plan:

• Sets the **goals** that our school community is working to achieve

• Identifies the **strategies or activities** that will help us reach those goals together
### How We Measure Student Progress

We want to make sure our students are learning as much as possible, so we use state and district assessments to determine their strengths and areas for growth. The results of these assessments help us figure out how we can better support our students in the classroom.

**Assessments help us answer questions such as:**

- *Are we teaching what we think we are teaching?*
- *Are students learning what we intend for them to be learning?*
- *Are all students improving and being appropriately challenged?*

**Some of the assessments our students will take this year are:**

- MCA
- FAST
- ACT

---

### How We’ll Share Student Progress with You

Throughout the year, we’ll share information with you about how your student is doing in the classroom. We’ll do it in the following ways:

- Parent-Teacher conferences on October 18th and 19th (Fall Conferences), February 21st (Winter Conferences).
- Quarterly report cards mailed home and 3-week progress reports emailed or delivered via phone calls.
- Regular calls from staff about improvements, successes and concerns as well as general school programming information and events.
Title I

What is Title I?

Title I is a federal program that provides money to schools and districts to help them ensure all children have an equal opportunity to get a high-quality education and achieve proficiency on our state’s academic standards and assessments.

Title I supports our School Improvement Plan, and the funding we receive helps us reach our goals.
For the 2022-2023 school year, we received $83,840 in Basic Title I funding, and for $2,008 for Family Engagement...This makes up about 5% of our school budget.

We are required to use Title I funding to improve the academic achievement of all students and engage YOU, our families, in that process!

**How We’re Using our Title I Funding**

**Curriculum, Instruction and Classroom Support**
- Staffing: Student Services-Manager, ALC+ and School Social Worker, Licensed Academic Manager
- Teacher education – Project Based Learning professional development
- PBL: student project supplies, field trips and expert professional fees

**Family Engagement**
- Family cultural events (See school calendar)
- Academically focused meetings and conferences
- Family Student Advisory meetings (4x)
As a family member in a Title I School, you have the right to...

- Request information from the district about whether your student’s teacher meets State licensing approval for the grade and subject being taught, is teaching with a waiver, and/or has certification for the field being taught
- Request information about the qualifications of any paraprofessional providing instruction
- Know how your child’s school is rated on its state test scores
- Expect regular communication with your school in a language that you can understand
- Work with other families and staff to develop a compact between our school and our families
- Help plan how money for family involvement should be spent
- Work with teachers, other families, and the school principal to develop a family engagement plan
- Ask for a meeting with your school principal or your child’s teacher at any time

Opportunities for Families to be Involved!

We want your input on our:
- School Improvement Plan goals and strategies
- Family Engagement Plan
- School-Family Compact

You can find these documents on our school website and contact the school at any time to give feedback!

We’d love to see you at the following school events:
- Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 18 and 19th and February 21st
- PBL Shares after each quarter ends
- Nov 7, Jan 26, March 30
- Family cultural events in Nov, Feb, May
- End of year celebration for all students and families
- Anytime you want to meet with staff at VOA HS
- Check out our VOA school calendar with family events highlighted in teal.
School Staff Information

Director
Wendy Smith
612-278-4235
wsmith@voamn.org

Academic Manager
Morgan Nichols
612-375-0700
Morgan.Nichols@voamn.org

Student Services Manager
Jennifer Owens
612-375-0700
Jennifer.owens@voamn.org

Family liaison-Somali language: Farhiyo Mohamed 612-375-0700, farhiyo.mohamed@voamn.org
Family liaison-Spanish language: Olga Santoyo 612-278-4242, olga.santoyo@voamn.org

We appreciate you!