

VOA HIGH SCHOOL

State of the School Information

2023 – 2024 School Year



Agenda

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

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 provides a safe space for every student to become actively involved in their education, their school, their community and, above all, their own success.

VOA High School has a target enrollment of 125 students and reached a peak of enrollment of 96 active students after relocating to a new neighborhood in August of 2022. In School Year 2023 we maintained an average of 30% ELs with over 40% of our VOA families speaking a language other than English as their primary language. At any given time, 15% of students actively enrolled are students with IEPs. VOA High School has historically served more male students than female and SY 23 year was no different. An average of 65% male students to 35% female students was maintained throughout the school year. Black students continue to be the majority of our population (60%), then hispanic (12% and falling), Native American (6%) and an increasing number of white students have enrolled throughout the year (20%). Total student enrollment during SY 23 was 151 students. 92% qualified for educational benefits and 50-60% of the student body were seniors.

Our Current Reality

Strengths

VOA High School continues to show strength in relationship-building and providing a supportive environment due to effective partnerships and caring staff. With a full-time engagement specialist, students may receive individualized success plans and immediate family partnership when challenges arise. VOA High School serves EL's with bilingual full-time staff, we support county-involved youth, offer multiple modes of learning, a robust amount of extra and diverse learning opportunities and can flexibly schedule working and older students.

Challenges

Regular student attendance, low 4-year graduation rates, improving student and staff 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 and with many new staff this year, cultivating basic best practices and providing staff tools and support to meet students where they are and providing SEL and student voice opportunities in meaningful ways too!

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



Our School Improvement Plan

MISSION

VOA High School's mission is to serve the whole student and to support individual growth.

Vision

VOA High School envisions every student becoming actively involved in their education, their school, their community and, above all, their own success.

Strategy 1: Academic Achievement

Long-term and short-term instructional planning and delivery best practices

Goal 1: Academic Achievement

The percentage of continuously enrolled students earning an average of 0.75 credits or above will increase from 45% in 2022-23 to 60% in 2024-25.

Strategy 2: Student Well-Being

Push-in SEL lessons provided by support staff

Goal 2: Student Well-Being

On the Search Institute student survey, the percentage of students who rate their leadership skills as weak will decrease from 38% to 18% and who rate their academic motivation as weak will decrease from 45% to 25% by 2024-25.

Strategy 3: Effective Staff

Professional development for staff on student support outside of academics

Goal 3: Effective Staff

The percentage of teachers and student support staff retained year over year will increase from 23% to 65% (retained between 2024-25 and 2025-26).

Strategy 4: School Climate

Student voice circles

Goal 4: School Climate

All students will participate in at least one student voice circle. 75% of students will report at the end of the school year that they contributed positively to the school culture and climate during the year.



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Our School Plan For 23-24

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 17th and 18th (Fall Conferences), February 20th (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.

VOA High School is a schoolwide Title I program, which means all our students are able to benefit from the services we provide with our Title I funding.

For the 2023-2024 school year, we received \$84,341 in Basic Title I funding, and for \$2,120 for Family Engagement...This makes up about 6% 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

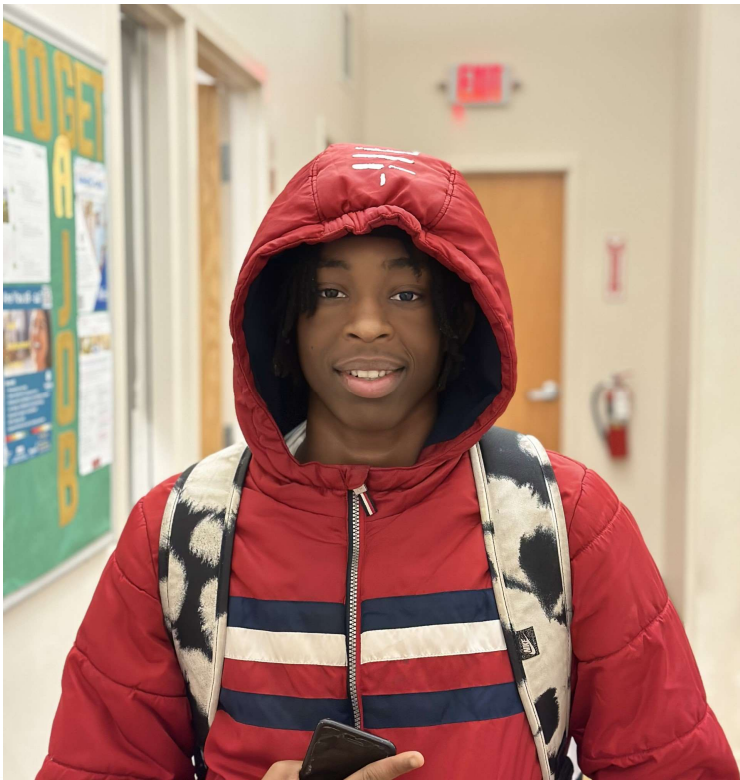
Curriculum, Instruction and Classroom Support

- Staffing: Student support staff positions such as the Student Engagement Specialist and School Social Worker
- Teacher education and coaching
- PBL: student project supplies, field trips and expert professional fees
- SEL initiatives

Family Engagement

- Family cultural events (See school calendar)
- Academically focused meetings and conferences

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!

- Participate in VOA High School events for families. We seek input at these functions.
- Participate in the Family survey during 3rd quarter
- Talk to your youth's teacher about events and issues that may be affecting their work, attendance or behavior.

We'd love to see you at the following school events:

- Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 17 and 18th and February 20th.
- Family cultural events in Nov, Feb, May
- End of year celebration for all students and families in June
- Anytime you want to meet with staff at VOA HS
- Check out our VOA school calendar with family events highlighted in yellow, available online and at the school.

School Staff Information

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We appreciate you!