

Family Engagement Plan (FEP), 2023-24

School Information	
School:	VOA
Principal:	Wendy Smith
Family Liaison:	Wendy Smith
Family Liaison Phone Number:	
Family Liaison Email Address:	wsmith@voamn.org
This plan was developed in partnership with families and approved on:	
Introduction to the Family Engagement Plan	We need the help of our families to reach our school goals for student success and achievement. Below is our plan for how we'll meaningfully engage families in equitable and accessible ways during the 2023-24 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, 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.
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 are expressing concerns about their youth and level of engagement with school.
The primary hopes and aspirations identified by families & community members at our school	Ample credit recovery opportunities, build motivation, stamina and graduation as soon as 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, 8/31/23. Fall Conferences and Title 1 sessions, 10/17 and 10/18/23. February conferences, Title 1 sessions and African American heritage supper, 2/20/23. Graduation and end of year celebration, 6/6/23
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:	VOA publishes a quarterly newsletter, The Family Informer, that describes how families can be involved at VOA, lists current events, and offers helpful information about the school, it's programming and ways to stay in touch. Families, upon enrollment receive a school calendar with family events highlighted. Family friendly school goals are mailed to households in one of three languages at the start of the school year and a staff list with contacts is included in the mailing. VOA High School uses a automatic phone messaging to update families regularly in their home language about what is happening at the school.
We will ensure all families can participate by providing the following:	Interpreters at family events, bus passes so families can get to events, child care/supervision during conferences.
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:	VOA High Schools informs families of our Title 1 school initiatives on October 17th and 18th during Fall conferences.
We will inform families of the steps our school is taking to improve student outcomes and achieve equity through:	Regular updates about school programming in quarterly newsletters, listing resources for additional academic help and credit recovery, providing written information in three languages about strategies our school is using to improve outcomes as well as through conversations during individual family meetings which happen regularly throughout the school year.
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:	During conferences, plans are presented and feedback is sought for all goals and strategies. Many student's families come to the school on a regular basis when partnering is requested around academic progress, these are times we get anecdotal information and use it to inform the school's process. VOA HS will utilize a parent survey in the Spring to gather feedback.
We will get family input on our Family Engagement Plan for next year in:	A Family Spring survey, which will be sent to families via a link, so it can be filled out online. We will seek to find out which events families would like to see the school offer and how often. It is also important to us to know if families feel welcome and valued at VOA so the survey will be designed to allow for families to give specific feedback about climate.
We will get family input on how we'll use our resources next year to support student achievement and engage families in:	Each Title 1 info session (Fall and Winter) and our Spring family survey.
We will host regular Site Council meetings on:	October 17th and February 20th when families are invited to be here to check in on student progress. Our students serve as guides for site initiatives so regular weekly circles and student voice initiatives during advisory will provide the school with the input needed to shape the climate and programming at VOA.
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:	
(Title I Schools) We will share our School-Family Compact with families by:	VOA High School includes the School-Family Compact in the registration folders that all new enrollees receive upon intake. The compact is printed in a trifold brochure mailed to homes in 3 languages with Quarter 1 grades. This trifold is also available in our school lobby and on our school website in the resources section. Families also have a chance to review the compact at Fall Conferences.
FEP Strategy Name	All families understand how to support their students' academic achievement.
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:	Families will receive information about VOA High School and how we serve students via Fall Conferences and Mid-year Conferences. Ongoing: Meetings requested by either the school or family to identify proper supports that will promote success-per student basis. Ongoing: Intake and enrollment meetings for new students and at new student orientation.
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:	Teachers provide families with Progress Period updates every 3 weeks and call families to describe how students will move forward toward their graduation goal. State assessment information is provided on the school website and when testing dates are close, families receive updates about who will test and why.

<p>We will host the following academically-focused family events:</p>	<p>Fall Conferences on October 17th and 18th. VOA HS will offer both evening times and morning times to make checking in accessible to working families. Mid-year Conferences will happen on February 20th and VOA HS uses language on written documentation and in school messages that families may request conferences at any time and even virtually. Graduating Senior Meeting will happen in the Spring to get families and students the information they need to understand what students have left to complete, credit-wise and when they will need to complete the credits to walk in their ceremonies. VOA High School's end of year celebration and graduate recognition event is all about recognizing academic achievement!</p>
<p>FEP Strategy Name</p>	<p><i>All staff will be trained on how to effectively partner with families.</i></p>
<p>We will provide professional development on family engagement to our staff on the following topics this year:</p>	<p>This school year, professional development for staff will include learning about the identities and cultures of our VOA students and their families as well as realities our students are experiencing that present barriers to learning. We began the year learning about trauma, addiction and the importance of our approach so we can be an inclusive and safe space for all.</p>