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Who We Are

OUR MISSION




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.

OUR VISION


VOA of MN envisions communities in which all lives are uplifted. We prioritize 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.

OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

VOA High School enrolled 112 students in the 2023-2024 school year. 18% of students received EL services with 41% of our VOA families speaking a language other than English as their primary language. 15% of students enrolled had IEPs. During the 2024 school year, 60% of students enrolled were male and 40% female. Black students continue to be the majority of our population (63%), then Hispanic American students (21%), White (20%) and Native American (5%). 88% qualified for educational benefits and 68% of the student body were seniors. 16% of the school population was aged 19 and over by the end of SY 2024.

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Our current reality:

STRENGTHS

- We invest in and prioritize relationship-building.
- We engage and graduate a large number of students in their 5th and sixth year of high school.
- We provide a safe and supportive environment, possible because of effective partnerships and caring staff.
- Our staff is a balanced mix of teaching professionals and support professionals who value and support student growth.
- We are effectively able to partner with families when challenges arise.
- VOA High School serves EL's with bilingual staff
- We offer a variety of ways for students to learn, and 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
- 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.
- Providing SEL and student voice opportunities in meaningful ways
- Providing leadership opportunities for students and addressing low academic press

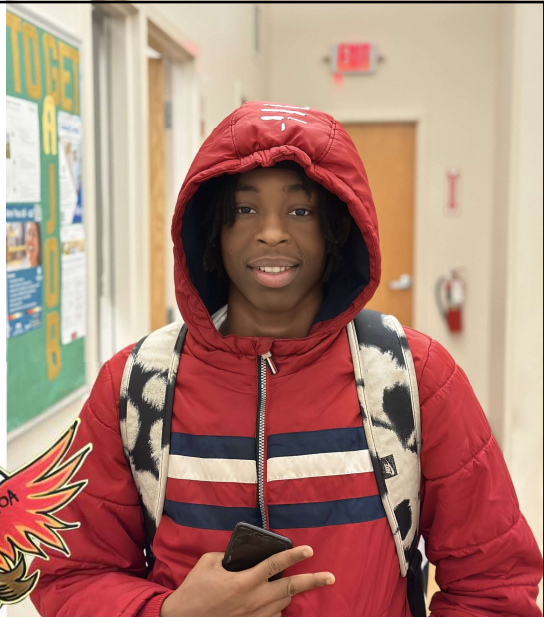
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What's a School Improvement Plan?

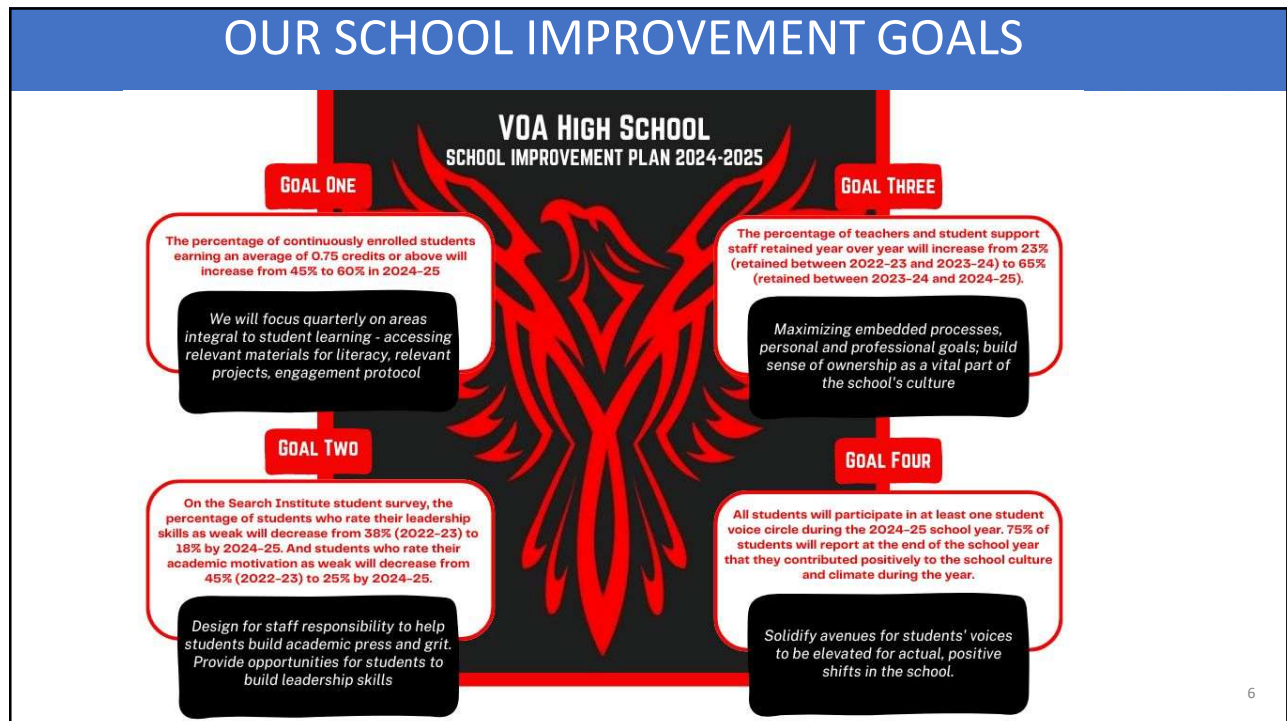
A school improvement plan:

- Sets the **goals** that our school community is working to achieve
- Identifies the **strategies or activities** that will help us reach those goals together



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OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS



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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:

- FASTbridge assessments in reading and math
- ACCESS test for EIs (reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking)
- MCA in Reading, Math and Science
- ACT

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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 10/15, 10/16, 2024 AND on 2/13, 2025
- Quarterly report cards mailed home.
- Progress updates communicated every 3 weeks
- Through the Infinite Campus parent and student portal



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What is Title 1?



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.

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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 this school year, we received \$24,000 in Title I funding, which makes up 2% 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!

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How we are using our Title 1 funding

Curriculum and Instruction Support: \$23,500


- Supports outside of the classroom which allow students to access learning more fully when they are in the classroom.
- Staffing: Support Services Specialist and Student Engagement Role.

Family Engagement: \$613.35

- Conferences, 3 times during the school year.
- Cultural events with an academic component to recognize our diverse communities and also growth and achievements.
- Off-site school events in the community which allow a chance for families and students to give feedback to the school.

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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

- 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's Director or your child's teacher at any time

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<p>We want your input on our:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Improvement Plan goals and strategies • Family Engagement Plan • School-Family Compact <i>You can find all these documents on our school website!</i> <p>• Provide feedback to the school about our plans and practices via email, phone or at any family event or conference. We want to hear your voice.</p> <p>• Talk to your child's teacher about events and issues that may affect your child's work or behavior.</p>	<p>We'd love to see you at the following school events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent-Teacher conferences on 10/15, 10/16, 2024 AND on 2/13, 2025 <p><i>Any of the events printed in blue on our VOA High School Calendar!</i></p> 
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Director
Wendy Smith wsmith@voamn.org 612-278-4235

Program Specialist

- Eddieberto Sanchez (Spanish language) eddieberto.sanchez@voamn.org
612-375-0700
Reception Office
- Jamila Shirelle (Somali language) Jamila.shirelle@voamn.org
612-375-0700



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