Elementary School Update

Michele Janke, Highland Elementary Principal
Jeff Cacek, North Park School for Innovation Principal
Jason Kuhlman, Valley View Elementary Principal
Bondo Nyembwe, Assistant Superintendent

November 25, 2025

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CREATING WORLDS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR EACH AND EVERY LEARNER — ALL BELONG, ALL SUCCEED —

OUR MISSION

Columbia Heights Public Schools

Creating worlds of opportunity for each and every learner.

"All Belong, All Succeed"

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CREATING WORLDS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR EACH AND EVERY LEARNER — ALL BELONG, ALL SUCCEED —

CORE VALUES

Community	Excellence	Collaboration	Integrity	Respect	Courage	Innovation
Where we all belong and believe in ourselves and each other	*Being our best, expecting our best, every day*	*Working together for common goals*	*Doing what is right, even when no one is watching*	*Celebrating who we are, honoring our differences, treating others well*	*Facing challenges with hope and persistence*	*Finding new ways to excel and grow*

The CHPS Core Values are aligned with the CHPS Board of Education Equity Statement.

OUR MISSION

Columbia Heights Public Schools

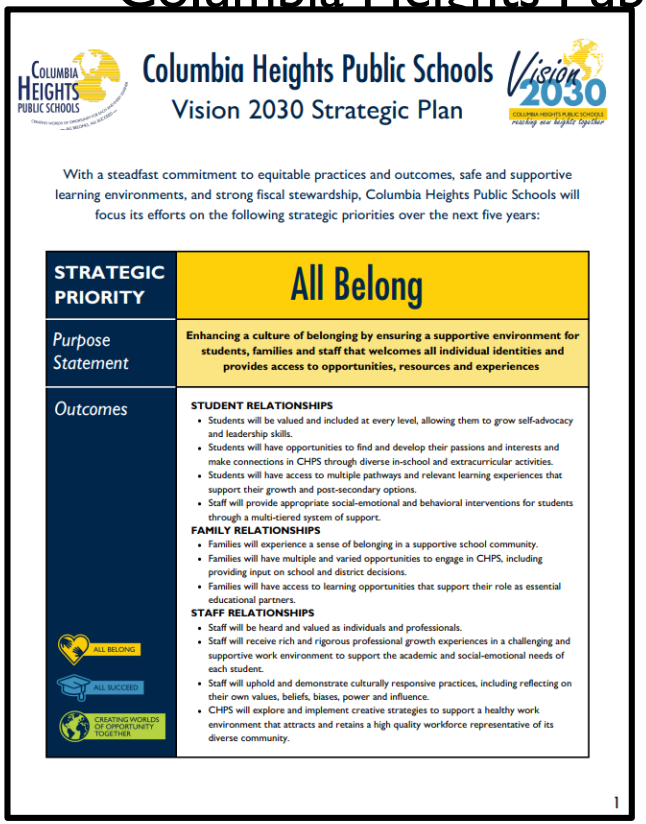
Creating worlds of opportunity for each and every learner

"All Belong, All Succeed"

Informational presentation to the CHPS Board of Education

No Governance Question

Climbing to new heights guided by the Columbia Heights Public School's Vision 2030 Strategic



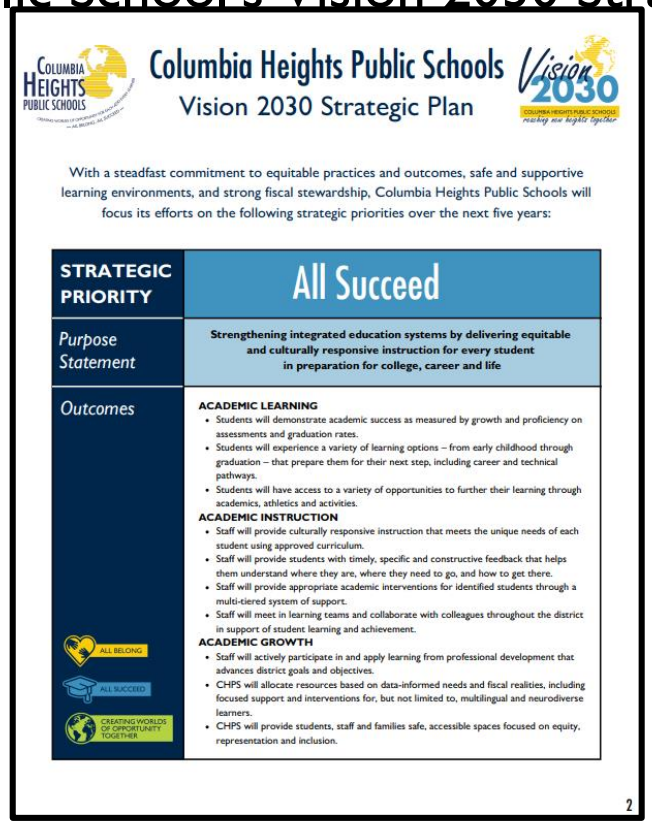
Columbia Heights Public Schools
Vision 2030 Strategic Plan

With a steadfast commitment to equitable practices and outcomes, safe and supportive learning environments, and strong fiscal stewardship, Columbia Heights Public Schools will focus its efforts on the following strategic priorities over the next five years:

STRATEGIC PRIORITY	All Belong
Purpose Statement	**Enhancing a culture of belonging by ensuring a supportive environment for students, families and staff that welcomes all individual identities and provides access to opportunities, resources and experiences**
Outcomes	**STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS** • Students will be valued and included at every level, allowing them to grow self-advocacy and leadership skills. • Students will have opportunities to find and develop their passions and interests and make connections in CHPS through diverse in-school and extracurricular activities. • Students will have access to multiple pathways and relevant learning experiences that support their growth and post-secondary options. • Staff will provide appropriate social-emotional and behavioral interventions for students through a multi-tiered system of support. **FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS** • Families will experience a sense of belonging in a supportive school community. • Families will have multiple and varied opportunities to engage in CHPS, including providing input on school and district decisions. • Families will have access to learning opportunities that support their role as essential educational partners. **STAFF RELATIONSHIPS** • Staff will be heard and valued as individuals and professionals. • Staff will receive rich and rigorous professional growth experiences in a challenging and supportive work environment to support the academic and social-emotional needs of each student. • Staff will uphold and demonstrate culturally responsive practices, including reflecting on their own values, beliefs, biases, power and influence. • CHPS will explore and implement creative strategies to support a healthy work environment that attracts and retains a high quality workforce representative of its diverse community.

ALL BELONG
ALL SUCCEED
CREATING WORLDS OF OPPORTUNITY TOGETHER

1



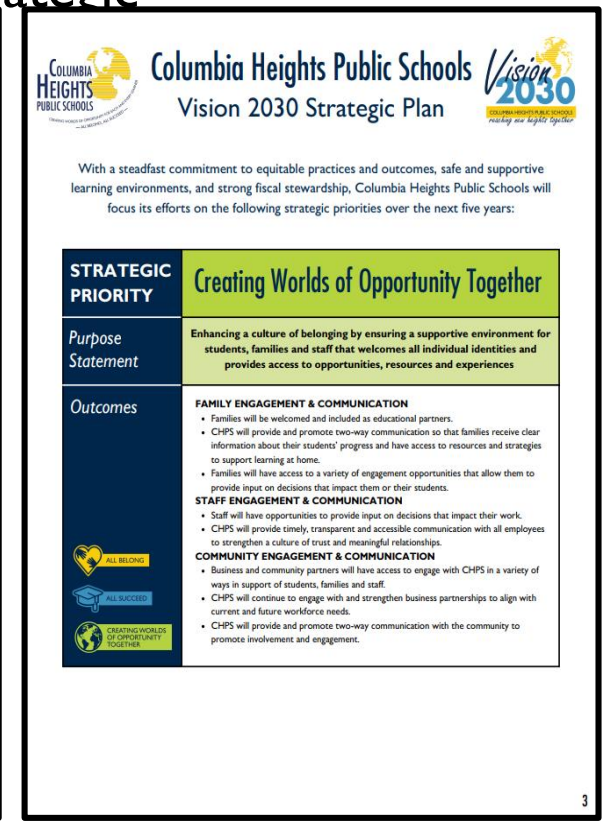
Columbia Heights Public Schools
Vision 2030 Strategic Plan

With a steadfast commitment to equitable practices and outcomes, safe and supportive learning environments, and strong fiscal stewardship, Columbia Heights Public Schools will focus its efforts on the following strategic priorities over the next five years:

STRATEGIC PRIORITY	All Succeed
Purpose Statement	**Strengthening integrated education systems by delivering equitable and culturally responsive instruction for every student in preparation for college, career and life**
Outcomes	**ACADEMIC LEARNING** • Students will demonstrate academic success as measured by growth and proficiency on assessments and graduation rates. • Students will experience a variety of learning options – from early childhood through graduation – that prepare them for their next step, including career and technical pathways. • Students will have access to a variety of opportunities to further their learning through academics, athletics and activities. **ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION** • Staff will provide culturally responsive instruction that meets the unique needs of each student using approved curriculum. • Staff will provide students with timely, specific and constructive feedback that helps them understand where they are, where they need to go, and how to get there. • Staff will provide appropriate academic interventions for identified students through a multi-tiered system of support. • Staff will meet in learning teams and collaborate with colleagues throughout the district in support of student learning and achievement. **ACADEMIC GROWTH** • Staff will actively participate in and apply learning from professional development that advances district goals and objectives. • CHPS will allocate resources based on data-informed needs and fiscal realities, including focused support and interventions for, but not limited to, multilingual and neurodiverse learners. • CHPS will provide students, staff and families safe, accessible spaces focused on equity, representation and inclusion.

ALL BELONG
ALL SUCCEED
CREATING WORLDS OF OPPORTUNITY TOGETHER

2



Columbia Heights Public Schools
Vision 2030 Strategic Plan

With a steadfast commitment to equitable practices and outcomes, safe and supportive learning environments, and strong fiscal stewardship, Columbia Heights Public Schools will focus its efforts on the following strategic priorities over the next five years:

STRATEGIC PRIORITY	Creating Worlds of Opportunity Together
Purpose Statement	**Enhancing a culture of belonging by ensuring a supportive environment for students, families and staff that welcomes all individual identities and provides access to opportunities, resources and experiences**
Outcomes	**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION** • Families will be welcomed and included as educational partners. • CHPS will provide and promote two-way communication so that families receive clear information about their students' progress and have access to resources and strategies to support learning at home. • Families will have access to a variety of engagement opportunities that allow them to provide input on decisions that impact them or their students. **STAFF ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION** • Staff will have opportunities to provide input on decisions that impact their work. • CHPS will provide timely, transparent and accessible communication with all employees to strengthen a culture of trust and meaningful relationships. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION** • Business and community partners will have access to engage with CHPS in a variety of ways in support of students, families and staff. • CHPS will continue to engage with and strengthen business partnerships to align with current and future workforce needs. • CHPS will provide and promote two-way communication with the community to promote involvement and engagement.

ALL BELONG
ALL SUCCEED
CREATING WORLDS OF OPPORTUNITY TOGETHER

3



Columbia Heights Public Schools
Creating worlds of opportunity for each and every learner — All belong, all succeed —

Highland Elementary

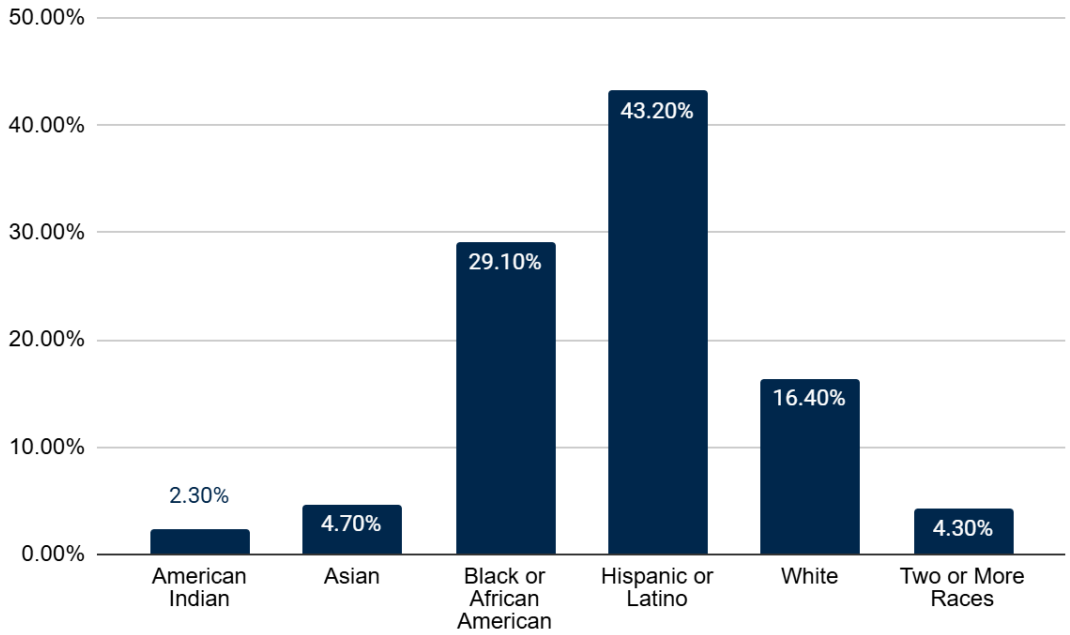






Looking back at 2024-2025: HL Demographics*

Race/Ethnicity



44.1%
of Highland students qualified as **English Learners**

14.1%
of Highland students qualified for **Special Education**

80.7%
of Highland students qualified for **Free/Reduced Price meals**

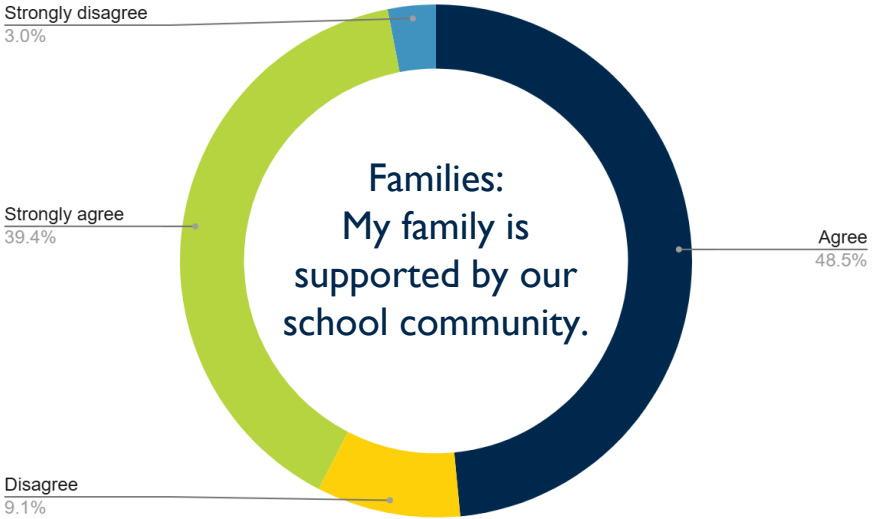
*according to the Minnesota Report Card

2024-2025 Peaks of Progress

All Belong

- **1a (Exploration):** Students will be valued and included at every level, allowing them to grow self-advocacy and leadership skills.
- **1e (Exploration):** Families will experience a sense of belonging in a supportive school





2024-2025 Peaks of Progress

All Belong



2d (Exploration) Staff will provide culturally responsive instruction that meet the unique needs of each student using approved curriculum.

100% of Highland Staff required to take READ Act Professional Development in Phase I completed it

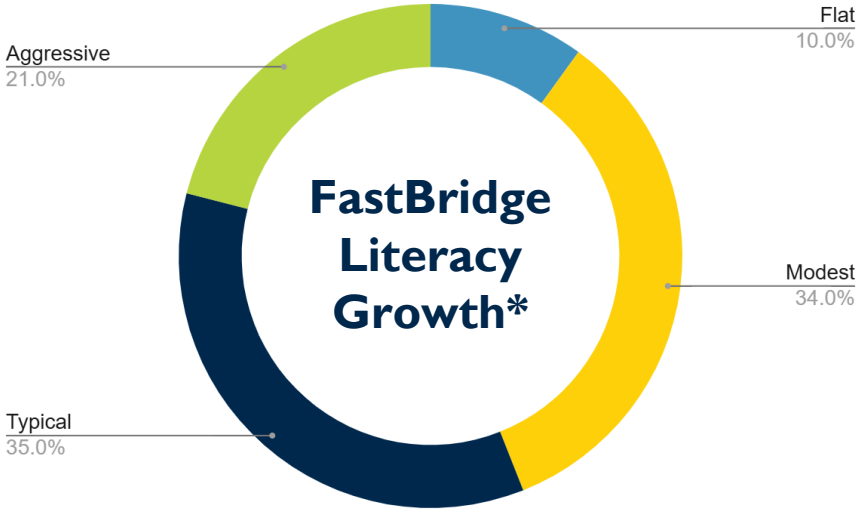
OL&LA
ONLINE LANGUAGE and LITERACY ACADEMY

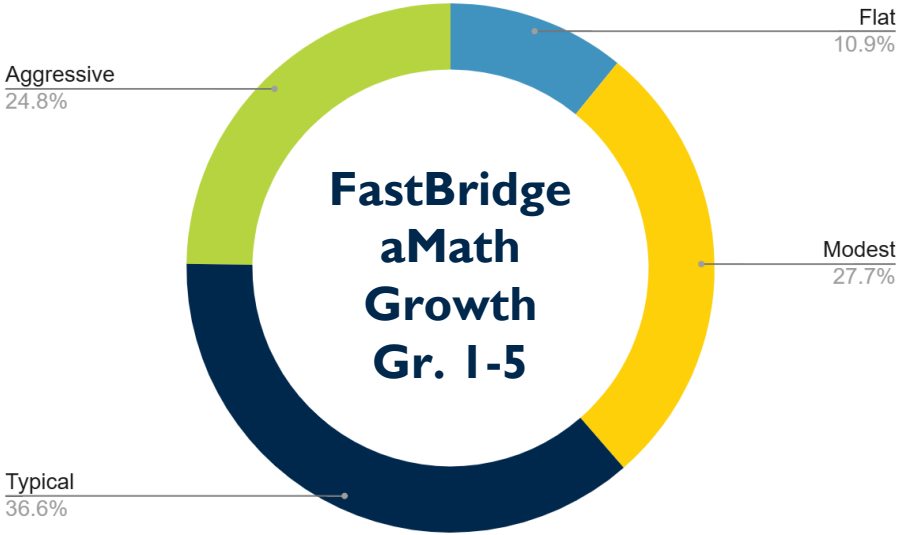
Lexia
LETRS™
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

2024-2025 Peaks of Progress

All Succeed

2a (Exploration) Students will demonstrate academic success as measured by growth and proficiency on assessments and graduation rates.



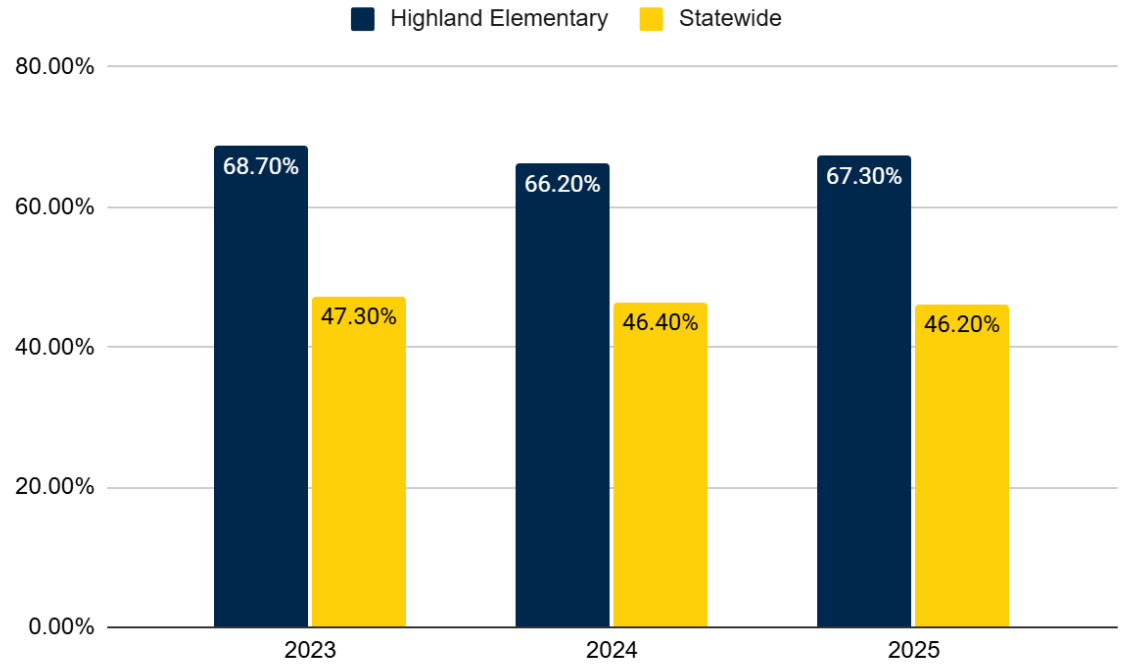


*includes earlyReading and aReading

2024-2025 Peaks of Progress

All Succeed

Average Progress Toward ELP Target*



2a (Exploration) Students will demonstrate academic success as measured by growth and proficiency on assessments and graduation rates.

*The "average progress toward target" is the average amount of progress English learners made towards their targets.

Source: Minnesota Report Card

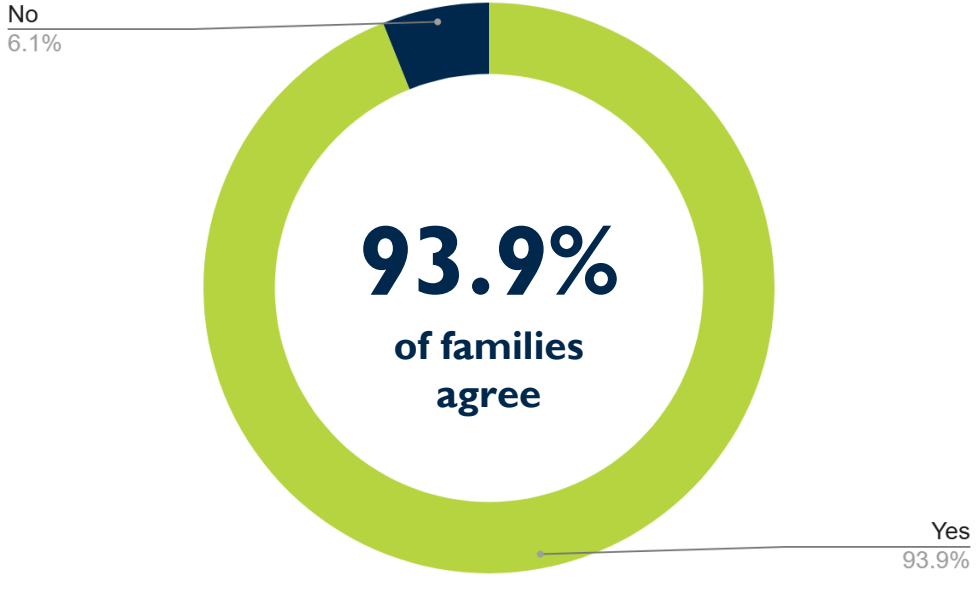
2024-2025 Peaks of Progress

Creating Worlds of Opportunity

3b (Exploration) CHPS will provide and promote two-way communication so that families receive clear information about their students' progress and have access to resources and strategies to support learning at home.

Data from 2025 CHPS Family Survey

Do you receive clear information about your student's progress and have access to resources and strategies to support learning at home?



Opportunities on the Horizon

- **2d (Exploration)** Staff will provide culturally responsive instruction that meet the unique needs of each student using approved curriculum.
- Continued implementation of Functional Phonics, Wonders, and Wit and Wisdom
- Additional focus on Math instruction using Math in Focus and Spring Math

- **2f (Exploration)** Staff will provide appropriate academic interventions for identified students through a multi-tiered system of support.
- Relooking at how we provide additional support such as Reading Intervention
- Collaborating across the grade level to ensure students are receiving the support they need

Highland Elementary
2025-2026









Climbing to New Heights



Highland School Goals 2025-2026

Literacy:

- By June 2026, 65% of students will make typical or aggressive growth as measured by the FastBridge screener.
- By June 2026, over 40% of students will be proficient as measured by the FastBridge screener.

Math:

- By June 2026, 65% of students will make typical or aggressive growth as measured by FastBridge.
- By June 2026, 40% of students will be proficient as measured by FastBridge.

PLC:

- By June 2026, PLC teams will complete at least 5 cycles during the 2025-2026 school year.



North Park School for Innovation

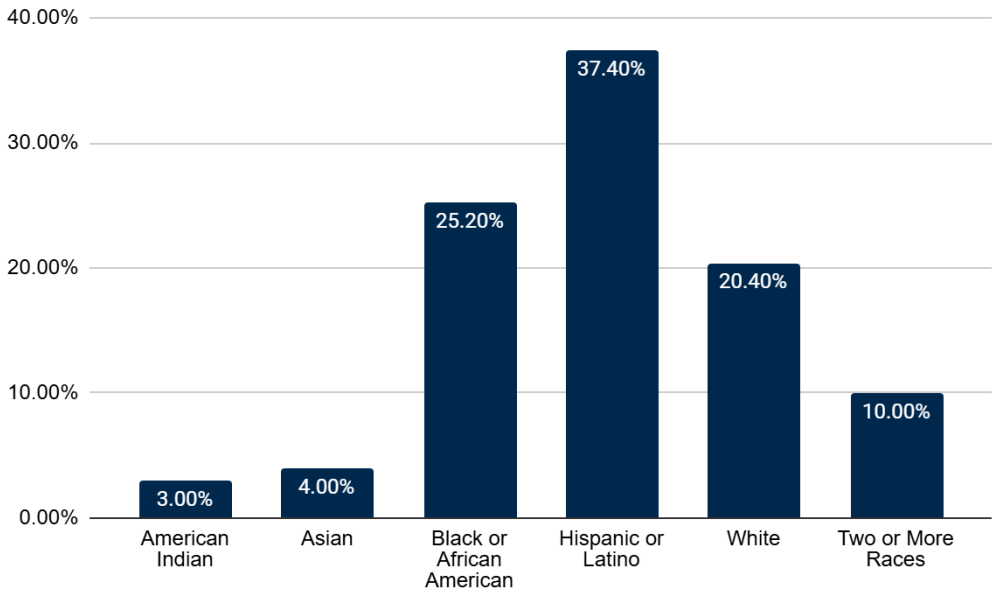






Looking back at 2024-2025: NPSfl Demographics*

Race/Ethnicity



39.9%
of NPSfl students qualified as **English Learners**

19.5%
of NPSfl students qualified for **Special Education**

74.1%
of NPSfl students qualified for **Free/Reduced Price meals**

*according to the Minnesota Report Card

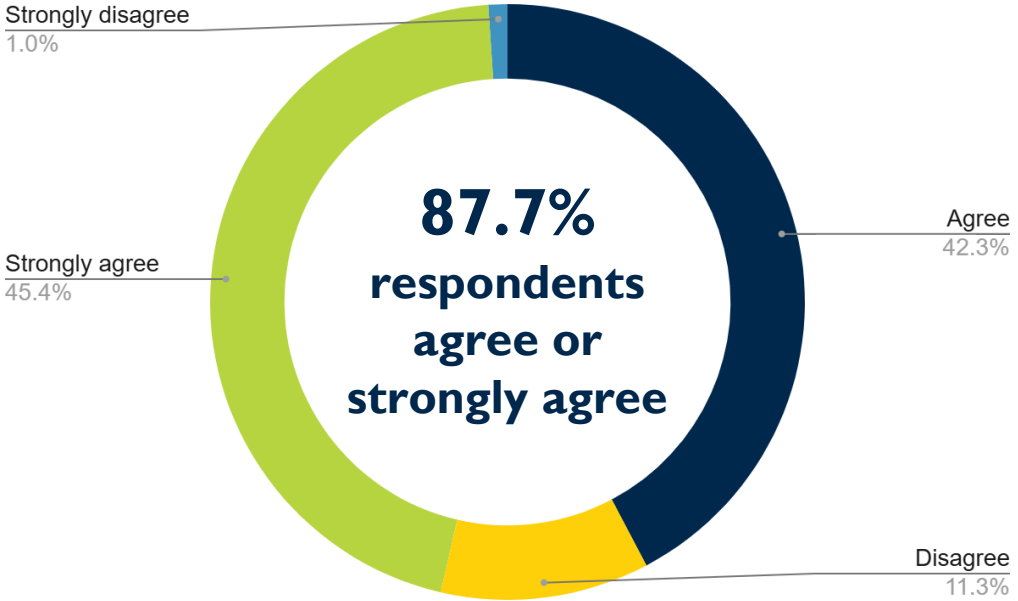
2024-2025 Peaks of Progress

All Belong

1a (Exploration) Students will be valued and included at every level, allowing them to grow self-advocacy and leadership skills.

Data from 2025 CHPS Student Survey

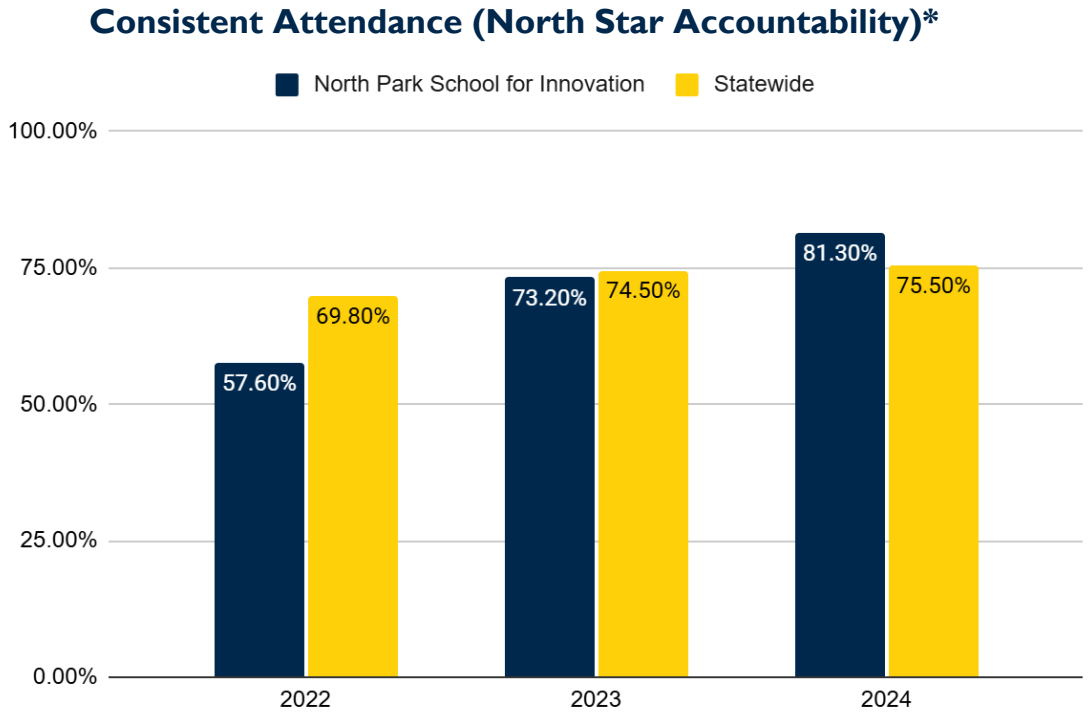
My school provides opportunities to express myself and develop leadership skills



2024-2025 Peaks of Progress

All Succeed

2b (Exploration) Students will experience a variety of learning options – from early childhood through graduation – that prepare them for their next step, including career and technical pathways.



*according to Minnesota Report Card, 2025 data not available

2024-2025 Peaks of Progress

All Succeed

2b (Exploration) Students will experience a variety of learning options – from early childhood through graduation – that prepare them for their next step, including career and technical pathways.



96%

Percent of surveyed students who **enjoy learning about sustainability outside** and in the **STEM** and **Sustainability Lab**

Up from 92% in 2023-24



100%

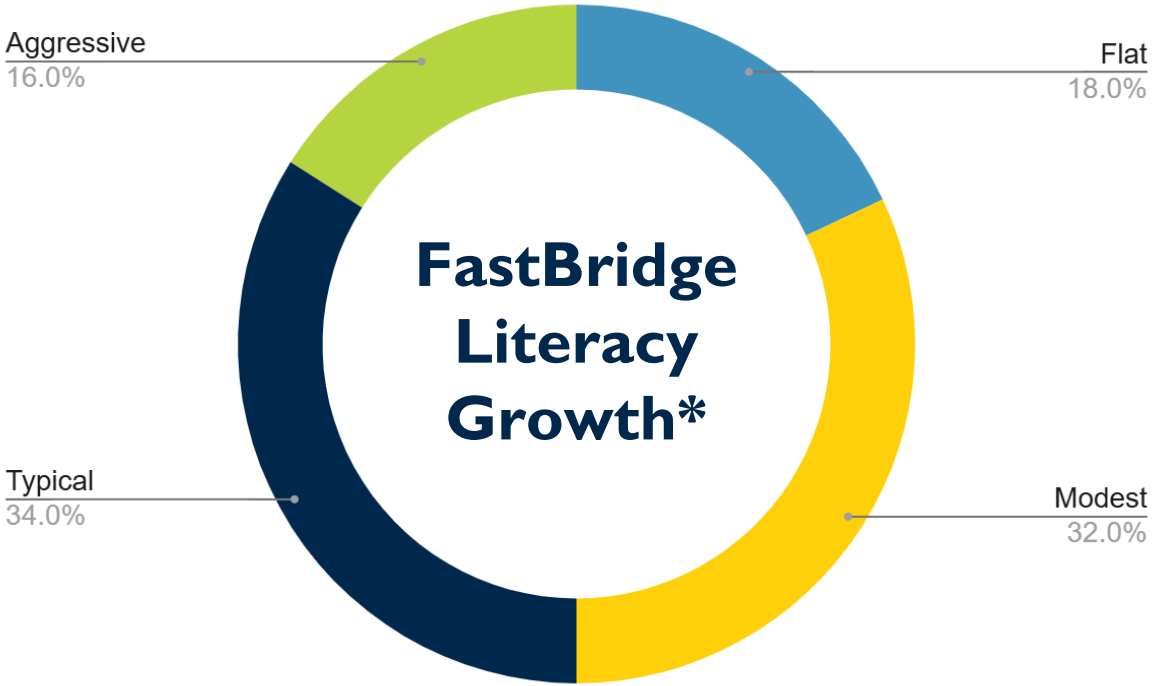
Percent of surveyed families who are satisfied with the **STEM and sustainability learning** their student(s) is receiving at NPSfI

Up from 97% in 2023-24

2024-2025 Peaks of Progress

All Succeed





2a (Exploration) Students will demonstrate academic success as measured by growth and proficiency on assessments and graduation rates.

*includes earlyReading and aReading

2024-2025 Peaks of Progress

Creating Worlds of Opportunity

3a (Exploration) Families will be welcomed and included as educational partners.

3b (Exploration) CHPS will provide and promote two-way communication so that families receive clear information about their students' progress and have access to resources and strategies to support learning at home.



98%

Percent of surveyed families who agree that **communication is easily accessible** by school/program

Up from 96% in 2023-24

Opportunities on the Horizon

- **2f (Exploration)** Staff will provide appropriate academic interventions for identified students through a multi-tiered system of support.
- Additional support provided through Reading Partners
- Focusing on use of the intervention blocks to support students

- **3c (Exploration)** Families will have access to a variety of engagement opportunities that allow them to provide input on decisions that impact them or their students.
- BIPOC Family affinity group
- Additional family engagement opportunities to support bringing families into school

North Park School for Innovation
2025-2026









Climbing to New Heights

NPSfl School Goals 2025-2026

Literacy:

- By June 2026, 40% or more students will be proficient in literacy as measured by the spring earlyReading and aReading FastBridge assessments.
- By June 2026, 60% or more students will have typical or aggressive growth in literacy as measured by the spring earlyReading and aReading FastBridge assessments.

Math:

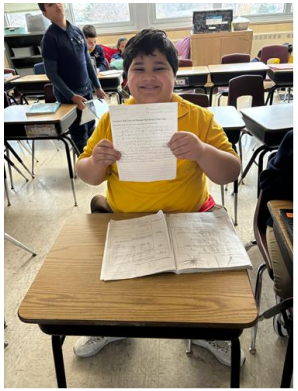
- By June 2026, 40% or more students will be proficient in math as measured by the spring aMath FastBridge assessments.
- By June 2026, 60% or more students will have typical or aggressive growth in math as measured by the spring aMath FastBridge assessments.

PLC:

- By June 2026, teams will meet their self-identified PLC cycle goals in 80% of PLC cycles during the 2025-2026 school year. Teams will refocus on PLC cycles around Tier 1 instruction.



Valley View Elementary

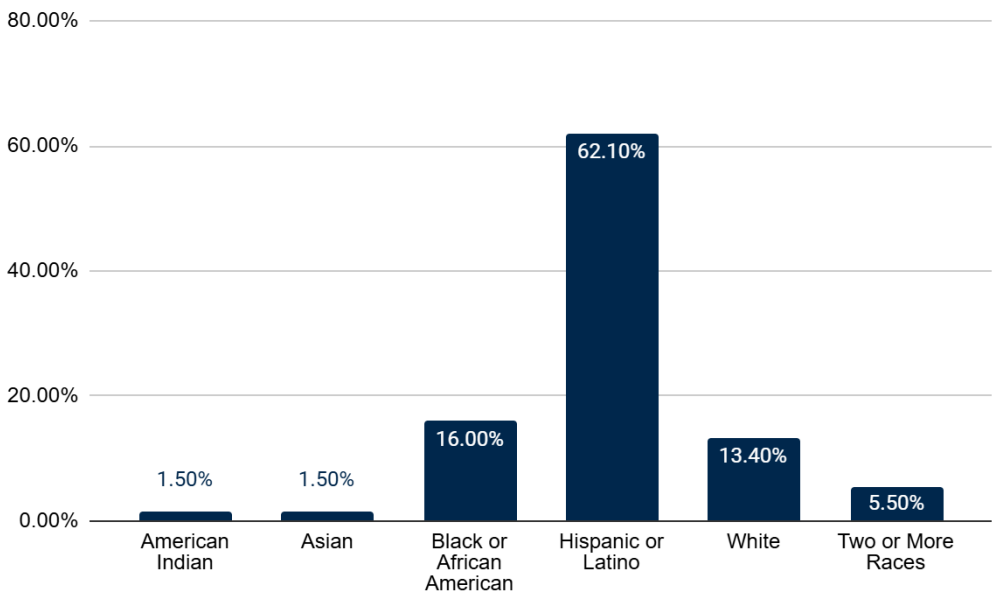






Looking back at 2024-2025: VV Demographics*

Race/Ethnicity



57.5%
of Valley View students qualified as **English Learners**

12.5%
of Valley View students qualified for **Special Education**

78.2%
of Valley View students qualified for **Free/Reduced Price meals**

*according to the Minnesota Report Card

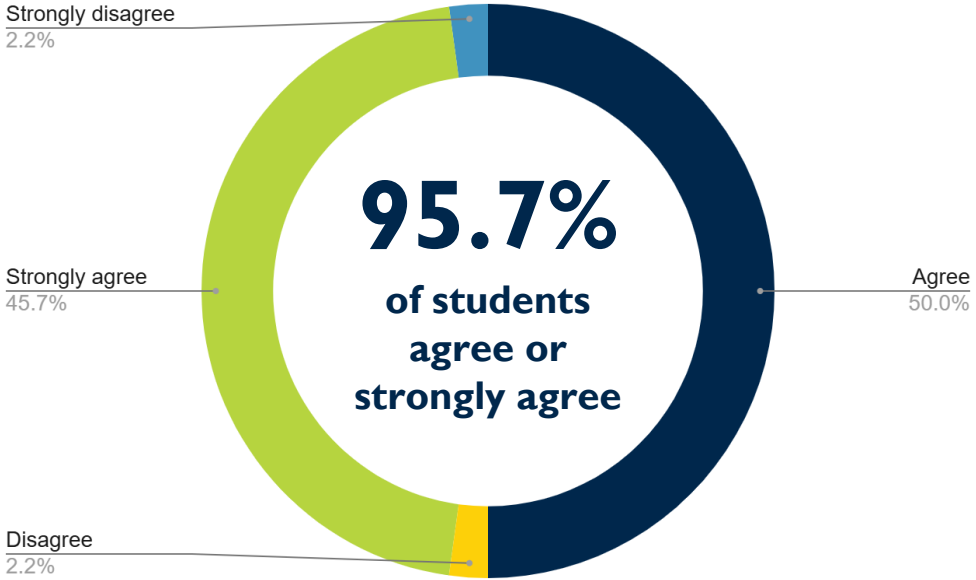
2024-2025 Peaks of Progress

All Belong

1a (Exploration) Students will be valued and included at every level, allowing them to grow self-advocacy and leadership skills.

Data from 2025 CHPS Student Survey

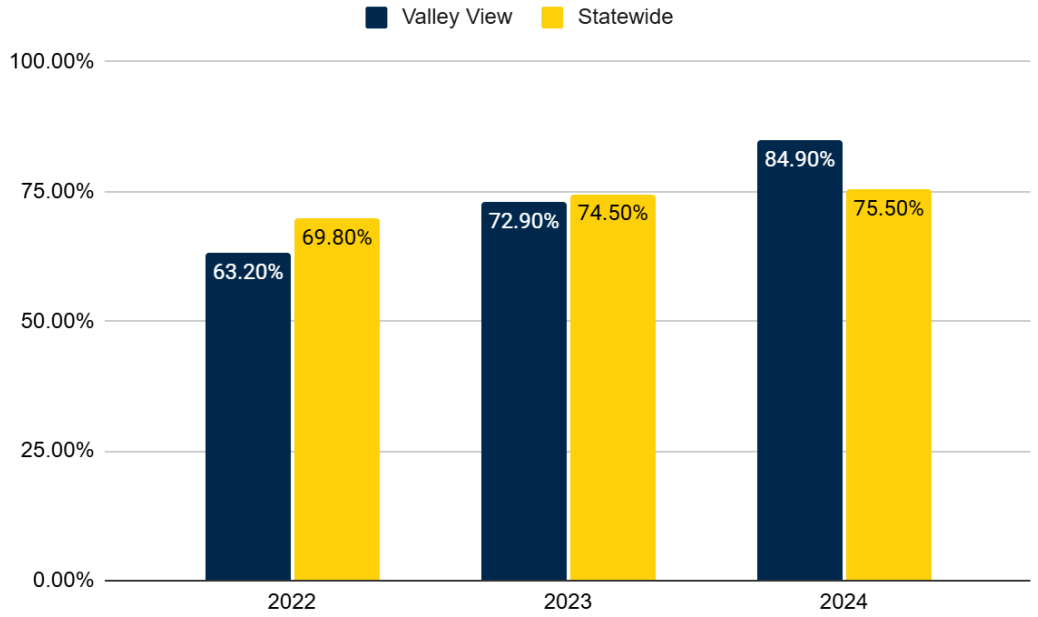
My school provides opportunities to express myself and develop leadership skills.



2024-2025 Peaks of Progress

All Succeed

2b (Exploration) Students will experience a variety of learning options – from early childhood through graduation – that prepare them for their next step, including career and technical pathways.

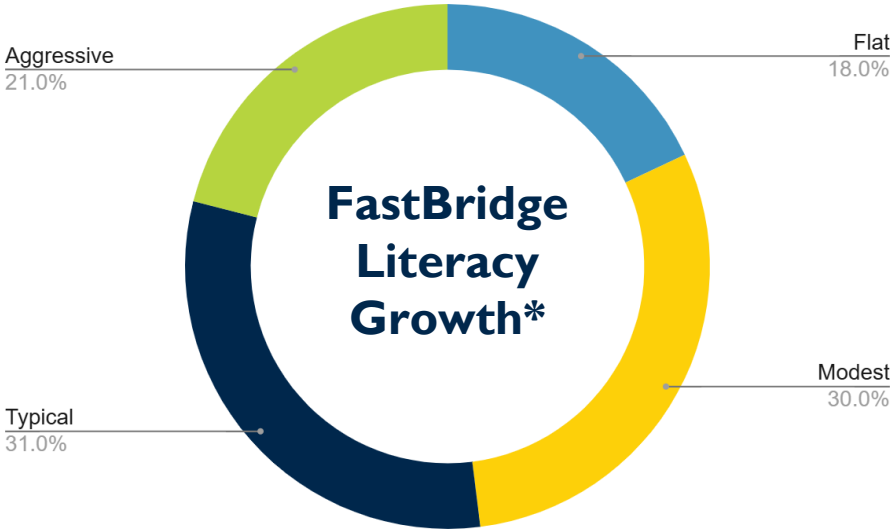


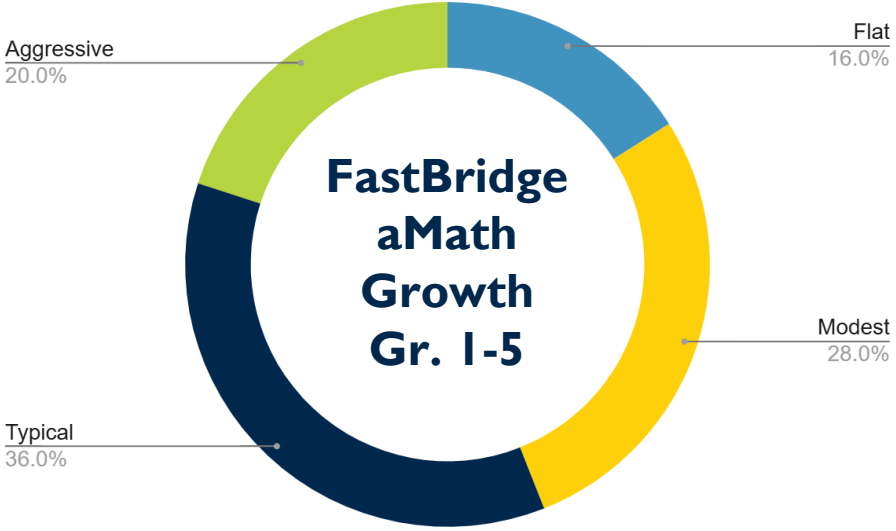
*according to Minnesota Report Card, 2025 data not available

2024-2025 Peaks of Progress

All Succeed

2a (Exploration) Students will demonstrate academic success as measured by growth and proficiency on assessments and graduation rates.



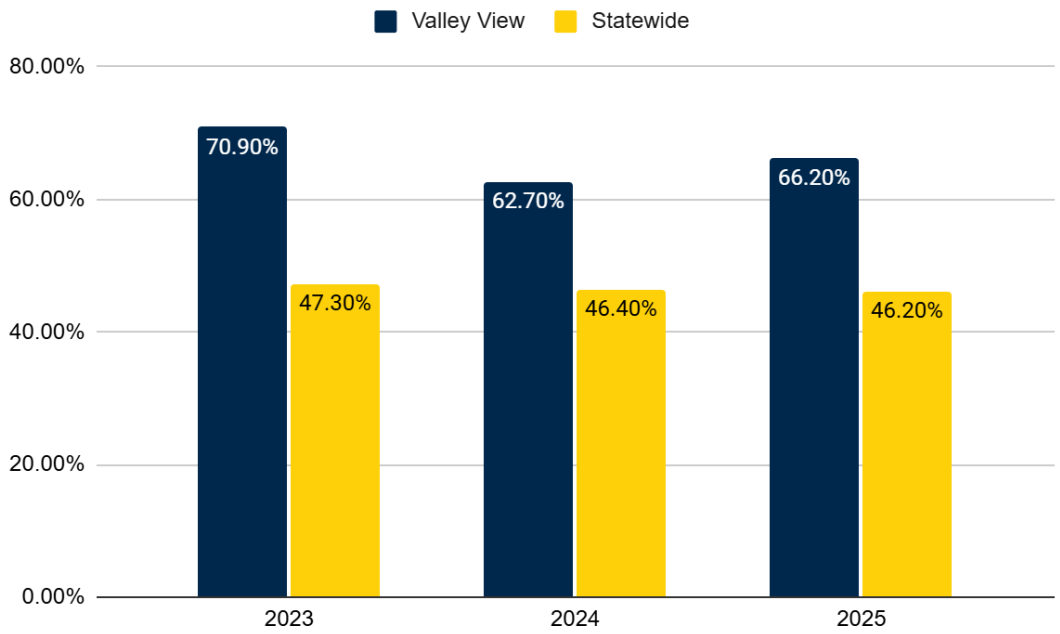


*includes earlyReading and aReading

2024-2025 Peaks of Progress

All Succeed

Average Progress Toward ELP Target*



2a (Exploration) Students will demonstrate academic success as measured by growth and proficiency on assessments and graduation rates.

*The "average progress toward target" is the average amount of progress English learners made towards their targets.

Source: Minnesota Report Card

2024-2025 Peaks of Progress

Creating Worlds of Opportunity

2a (Exploration) Families will be welcomed and included as educational partners.

Family Engagement

-Language Classes
-Multilingual Family Night
-Fall Picnic with Columbia Academy
-LEAP night
-Book Fair
Carnival
-Fun Run
-Conferences
-and more…





Full Service Community School

-Sit Council
-Domestic Violence Classes
-Reading Partners
-Minnesota Reading Corp
-Reading Buddies
-Medtronic
-Food Shelf within the school
-Every Meal Counts
-and more…

2024-2025 Opportunities on the Horizon

- **2f (Exploration)** Staff will provide appropriate academic interventions for identified students through a multi-tiered system of support.
  - Continued focus in PLCs to support using a variety of data to inform instruction
  - Analyzing data with the support of the University of Minnesota to best support multilingual students
- **2d (Exploration)** Staff will provide culturally responsive instruction that meet the unique needs of each student using approved curriculum.
  - Vertical articulation to support standards
  - Focus on Tier I instruction using district adopted curriculum

Valley View Elementary
2025-2026









Climbing to New Heights



Valley View School Goals 2025-2026

Literacy:

- By June 2026, 70% of students will make typical or aggressive growth, as measured by FastBridge CBM assessments (2nd-5th).
- By June 2026, 60% of students will make typical or aggressive growth, as measured by FastBridge earlyReading (PreK-1st grade).
- By June 2026, 40% of students will be proficient in literacy as measured by FastBridge aReading assessments.

Math:

- By June 2026, 90% of students 1-5 will make growth as measured by the aMath assessment (i.e., 10% or less will make flat growth).
- By June 2026, 40% of K-5 students will be proficient in math as measured by the aMath and earlyMath (PreK & K) assessment.

PLC:

- 100% of PLC teams will set goals focused on the growth of the four different categories, along with proficiency of state standards, as measured by the PLC spreadsheets and targeted interventions per subgroup.





