School Support and Readiness Assessment & School Monitoring Visit Summary
Beginning of Year
(SSRA/SITM-BOY)

School: Vista Grande High School	**LEA**: Charter - Vista Grande High School
School Leader: James (Jim) Smith	**LEA Leader**: James (Jim) Smith
SSRA Team Leader: Jody Martinez	**Date**: October 3, 2024

School Description

Vista Grande High School (VGHS) is a state charter school that serves a diverse population of 70 students in grades 9-12. VGHS aims to take a holistic approach to education, focusing on students developing critical and creative thinking, character focus, and community involvement. They do this by focusing on relationships, social-emotional learning, and place-based experiential education (outdoor learning and work-based learning) and on getting students into the community to interact with all levels of Taos (i.e., outdoors, community members, etc.). This all helps build relevancy in each student's learning, allowing them to dig deeper and build understanding.

Vista Grande High School is shifting its focus to ensure it provides standards-based instruction with integrity and is aligned with its school identity while supporting social-emotional learning.

School Successes and Celebrations

Vista Grande High School showed growth in their overall graduation rate for the 2022-2023 school year, self-reporting an overall rate of 70%. The school demonstrates great potential in continuing this growth in graduation and overall student academic success. The school has explored many different programs and learning pathways up to this point and now intends to shift to intentionally focus and narrow their scope of programming into the things that have worked well for their students, including leaning into dual enrollment programming, work-based learning (WBL), and social-emotional learning (SEL). VGHS is thinking and planning outside the box to help their students graduate and have a pathway for their future and the SEL skills to navigate that pathway successfully.

VGHS provides a different learning environment and teaching style, providing authentic opportunities (internships through work-based learning, hands-on experiences, outdoor learning, etc.) that differ from a traditional school. The staff truly cares for every student and will do everything possible to ensure every student succeeds.

The school has successfully built relationships and connections to support students in how they learn best. The school's climate is equitable, inclusive, and respectful of all cultures and backgrounds. There has been a significant shift in the school's culture this year, as reported by all stakeholders (staff and students), for the better. There is a feeling of belonging within an environment that is safe and allows for risk-taking in learning and

growing, as well as a level of respect and trust among students, staff, and between students and staff.

Year-End Goals, Action Steps, and Progress Monitoring

Annual and 90-Day Plan Development
Based on Vista Grande High School's growth data from the 2023-2024 school year, the Annual and 90-Day Plans were created to address their NM Vistas designation regarding graduation rate. The school has shown consistent growth overall, but the graduation rate was found to be slightly below the threshold for the state of New Mexico. The process to develop the Annual and 90-Day Plan included the school director working with members of the school leadership team to flesh out realistic ideas that best fit the identified needs based on the school's data. The school director also worked with the school's regional support specialist to put ideas into an appropriate action plan.

Current Data:
The school's historical graduation data is as follows:

	4 year cohort	5 year cohort	6 year cohort
Cohort 2022	60%	Data unavailable	Data unavailable
Cohort 2021	55.3%	61%	Data unavailable
Cohort 2020	65.8%	70.1%	75%
Cohort 2019	53%	56.3%	56.3%

The school reports additional data below:

2022-2023 Graduation Rate: 70%

Graduation Goals:

Summative: Achieve an 80% graduation rate for the 2024-2025 school year.

Benchmark: Vista Grande High School will have 80% or more of its 4-year cohort seniors on track with required credits by the end of the first semester of the 2024-25 school year.

Desired Outcome: By the end of our 90-Day Plan, we will have at least 80% of 12th-grade students on target for on-time graduation and build the foundation for our current 11th-grade students to be on target.

Progress Monitoring: Number of 11th and 12th graders on track monthly, as checked during academic check-ins with the school registrar; monthly attendance rates.

Baseline data: After identifying how it will monitor progress toward the benchmark, the

school will work on gathering baseline data and monthly progress monitoring data to report at the SITM MOY visit.

English Language Arts Goals:

Summative: Vista Grande High School 11th-grade students will have an average Reading and Writing SAT score of 482 during the 2024-25 school year, as determined by Spring 2025 SAT results.

Benchmark: **The school is revising the current benchmark goal to focus on interim assessment data to identify progress toward the summative goal.

Desired Outcome: Vista Grande High School staff will utilize the VGHS standards-based lesson plan with 100% weekly participation to help strengthen their classroom instruction and effectiveness with all students in ELA.

Progress Monitoring: The monthly percentage of staff turning in lesson plans with required components and student proficiency percentage on the NWEA MAPS ELA Assessment (done three times per year).

Baseline data: After identifying how it will monitor progress toward the benchmark, the school will work on gathering baseline data and monthly progress monitoring data to report at the SITM MOY visit.

Math Goals:

Summative: Vista Grande High School 11th-grade students will increase their average Math SAT score from 385 in the 2023-2024 school year to 444 in the 2024-2025 school year, as determined by Spring 2025 SAT results.

Benchmark: **The school is revising the current benchmark goal to focus on interim assessment data to identify progress toward the summative goal.

Desired Outcome: Vista Grande High School Staff will utilize the VGHS standards-based lesson plan with 100% participation every week to help strengthen their classroom instruction and effectiveness with all students in math.

Progress Monitoring: Monthly percentage of staff turning in lesson plans with required components; student proficiency percentage on NWEA MAPS Math Assessment (done three times per year).

Baseline data: After identifying how it will monitor progress toward the benchmark, the school will work on gathering baseline data and monthly progress monitoring data to report at the SITM MOY visit.

Science Goals:

Summative: Vista Grande High School will increase its growth rate as measured by proficiency in science for the 11th-grade students from 53% to 63% during the 2024-2025

school year as determined by NM-ASR student data.

Benchmark: **The school is revising the current benchmark goal to focus on interim assessment data to identify progress toward the summative goal.

Desired Outcome: Vista Grande High School Staff will utilize the VGHS standards-based lesson plan with 100% participation every week to help strengthen their classroom instruction and effectiveness with all students in science.

Progress Monitoring: Monthly percentage of staff turning in lesson plans with required components; student proficiency percentage on NWEA MAPS Science/Math Assessment (done three times per year).

Baseline data: After identifying how it will monitor progress toward the benchmark, the school will work on gathering baseline data and monthly progress monitoring data to report at the SITM MOY visit.

English Language Proficiency Goals:

Summative: Vista Grande High School will increase their average WIDA score from an overall average score of 3.4 during the 2023-2024 school year to an overall average score of 3.9 for all students who qualify as English Learners (ELs) during the 2024-2025 school year as measured by their WIDA ACCESS scores.

Benchmark: **The school is revising the current benchmark goal to focus on interim assessment data to identify progress toward the summative goal.

Desired Outcome: Vista Grande High School Staff will utilize the VGHS standards-based lesson plan with 100% participation every week to help strengthen their classroom instruction and effectiveness with all ELs, including language usage.

Progress Monitoring: Monthly percentage of staff turning in lesson plans with required components; student proficiency percentage on NWEA MAPS ELA Assessment (done three times per year).

Baseline data: After identifying how it will monitor progress toward the benchmark, the school will work on gathering baseline data and monthly progress monitoring data to report at the SITM MOY visit.

DOMAIN 1: CULTURE & EQUITY

Promising Practices:
There has been a complete shift in VGHS's culture to one that is positive, inclusive, and safe and encourages growth in both students and teachers. The school staff has done an excellent job building relationships and providing SEL support for student success. Students can express their needs and know they have at least one person they can go to for support.

Opportunities for Growth:
The new leader has an opportunity to create this same shift in the culture around academics, maximizing instructional time and connecting off-campus learning experiences to standards. There are examples of best practices within the staff that could be leveraged to increase capacity throughout the entire staff and empower staff's confidence in their strengths.

Potential Next Steps:
- Continue to leverage the work of The New Teacher Program (TNTP) to address instruction and instructional expectations.
- Continue to build trust and confidence in staff and students to enable next-level conversations without them retreating from the trust relationship.
- Walkthroughs and formal observations will support this direction and encourage teachers to push themselves to the next level.

DOMAIN 2: LEADERSHIP

Promising Practices:
All stakeholders have a new sense of optimism due to leadership instituting systems and expectations, following through on those, building and leveraging relationships, and providing consistency. Leadership builds teachers' capacity to handle behavior and classroom management and confidence in their professional practices.

Opportunities for Growth:
There is an opportunity to create and leverage a sense of urgency around academic growth and success within the school through further development and implementation of systems that collect and share data in a valuable and meaningful way to grow students' academic skills.

Potential Next Steps:
- Leverage the Multi-layered Systems of Support (MLSS) to learn more about the plans and how to use them to support the school's future direction, especially the effectiveness of instruction. The state's MLSS guide can be a valuable resource.
- Develop a strong school leadership team to support better school direction, such as evaluating current SEL work, layer two instruction, and taking more shared ownership of major school initiatives and the annual and 90-Day Plan.
- Develop or design a "student at a glance" system to see information on student progress and early warning indicators (such as attendance, student grades, credits completed, credits in progress, credits needed, PSAT/SAT scores, NM-ASR, NWEA/MAPS scores, internship, dual credit).