



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

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# Local Accountability Planning Grant

## Spring 2021 Progress and Lessons Learned

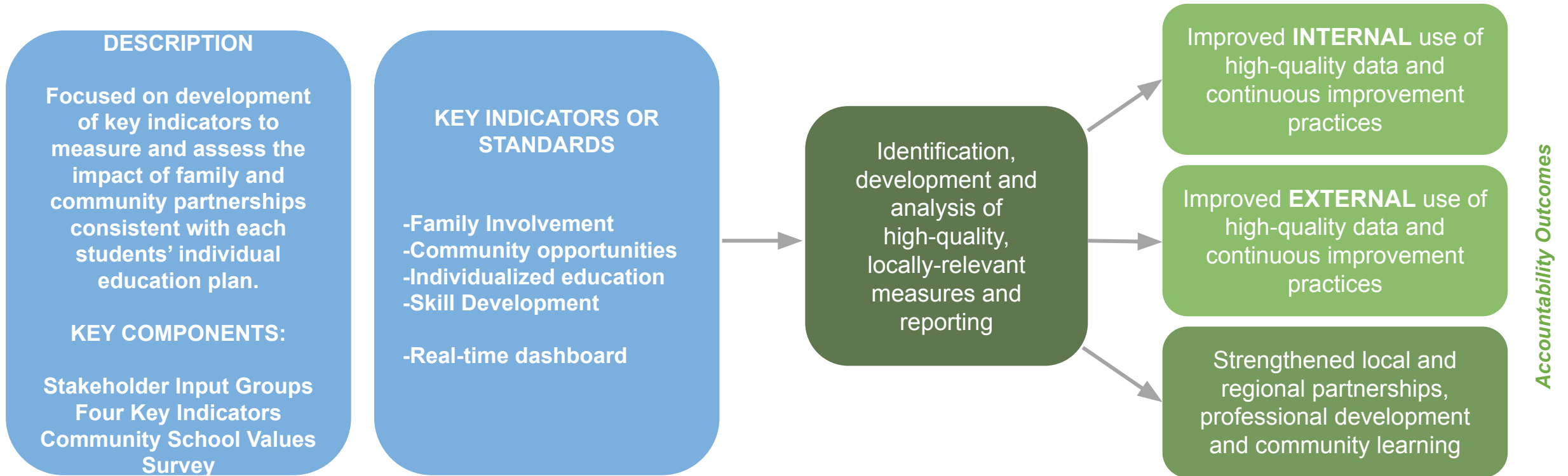
*Vision Charter Academy*

*Wilynn Webb, Executive Director*  
[www.visioncharteracademy.org](http://www.visioncharteracademy.org)



**Voice. Choice. Achieve.**

# THEORY OF ACTION



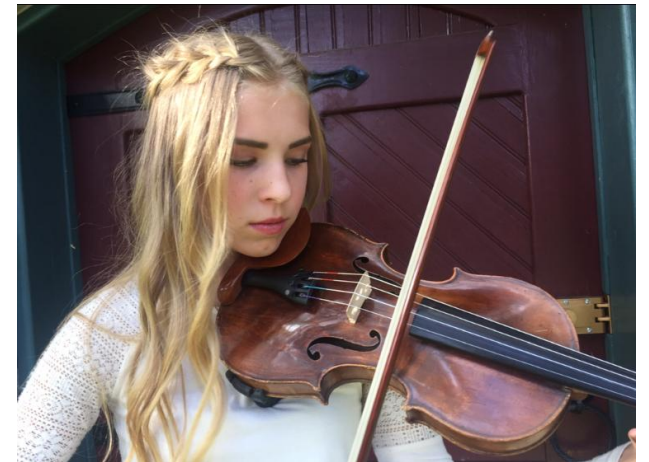
*VCA operates a unique and innovative public school in Colorado by individualizing the student and family K-12 experience. The Pilot opportunity supported Vision's development of key indicators to measure and assess the impact of family and community partnerships consistent with each students' customized education.*

# VALUES, VISION, COMMUNITY CONTEXT

***Vision Charter Academy will be the school of choice for individualized homeschool education through dynamic partnerships between families, school and communities resulting in learners who are equipped as contributing members of a global society ingrained with a love of learning to last a lifetime***

**Individualized education for all students through:**

- ***Family Partnerships***-oversight for home-based teaching and learning
  - *Selection of curriculum*
  - *Establish daily lesson times*
  - *Incorporate real life activities into children's education*
- ***Community Partnerships***-54 local businesses provide electives choices
  - *karate, violin, dance, horseback riding, and much more*
  - *ILOP Grant internships*
  - *More added as requested by students and families*



# VALUES, VISION, COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Challenge: Vision did not have a data identification and tracking system in place to broaden the scope of accountability beyond what is included on the School Performance Framework, which is needed to reflect on our big questions:

- How does our unique design benefits learners?
- What data do we need to collect to inform continuous improvement?
- How can we best show how alternative measures of success translate to academic and life success for our students?

Solution: During the planning year we will identify measures to improving key accountability indicators that will

- Help our families and community understand our values,
- Inform continuous improvement strategies,
- Provide evidence for replication to other schools with similar design features.

Community involvement: Led by our School Accountability Committee we enlisted our families and communities in the following ways:

- Running focus groups
- Facilitating learner groups
- Administered a survey to families about what they value about the Vision model



# BRIEF DESCRIPTION AND KEY COMPONENTS

- *Identify measures of success to tell the full story of students' growth and success and improve the UIP process.*
- *Build a data system to house all data and populate a dashboard for all stakeholders that focuses on family values, community partnerships, and students' social emotional and academic development, and exceptional outcomes.*
- *An understandable dashboard to inform stakeholders to make informed decisions regarding school choice, help VCA stay focused on identified values, and support continuous improvement efforts.*
- *Ultimately informing replication of the model.*



# KEY INDICATORS OR STANDARDS

**Year One 2019-2020** focused on stakeholder input to determine VCA values in four areas (in addition to academic growth and achievement):

- Family Involvement
- Community Opportunities
- Individualized Education
- Skill Development

**Year Two 2020-2021** focused on establishing key indicators and ways to measure the identified values around **family partnerships**:

**Year Three (upcoming)** will focus on completing the data management system and dashboard design and we will add additional indicators and measurements focused on the **community partnerships**.



# MEASURES AND INDICATORS

Focus Groups' input and initial survey data used to develop:

[Family Values Survey](#)

[Family Satisfaction Survey](#)

Focus Groups' input and initial survey data provided by our accountability partner, Momentum, to find and match with VCA values with the

[Developmental Assets](#) Profile, Search Institute.

40 assets including:

- Family support
- Caring school environment
- Achievement motivation
- Resilience
- Planning & decision making
- Self-esteem
- Sense of purpose
- Personal power
- Positive relationships

A custom-built **dashboard** as part of the Vision data management system will summarize and share results.



# INTERPRETING AND REPORTING:

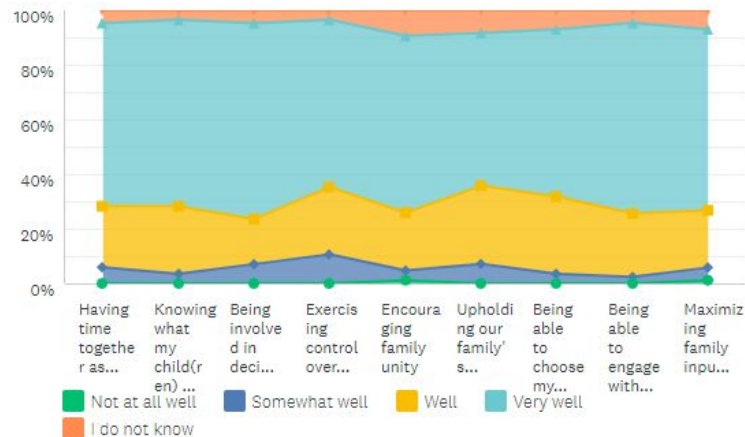
Momentum data analysis coming in June.

The Search Institute report provides

- a sharable results dashboard,
- summary of asset category scores
- percentage of challenged to thriving youth in the 8 asset categories
- mean scores on categories of internal assets, selected demographics
- recommendations for using the data in planning.

Please indicate how well you feel VCA is supporting each of the following aspects of family involvement in education for your family.

Answered: 87 Skipped: 9





# PROGRESS TOWARD SHARED OUTCOMES

The Developmental Assets Profile selected and is being administered now.

The Spring 2021 School Satisfaction survey was developed by Momentum to align with the core values identified by the community and is currently being administered to families

The buildout of the custom data management system is underway and is expected to be complete in July 2021.



# PROGRESS TOWARD SHARED OUTCOMES

*Yearly reports to our authorizer, the Delta County Board of Education, and the community including the local accountability measures will be more reflective of the model.*

*The Board of Stewards and School Accountability Committee took on the project because they feel these measurements are just as important as academic growth and achievement, financial oversight, and policies. The reporting to them will be valuable for their oversight and guidance.*

*Vision Charter Academy will use the results to identify trends, root cause analysis, identify challenges and improvement initiatives for family and community partnerships!*



# TAKEAWAYS

## HIGHLIGHTS

Educating stakeholder groups about the local accountability measures grant and project is value in itself.

School Accountability Committee taking on the project was powerfully supportive and helpful.

Momentum Strategy & Research are excellent partners.

We are excited for our first round of surveys and results.

Looking forward to partnering with Momentum on analysis and reporting.

## LESSONS LEARNED

You must start somewhere, and any progress is better than none.

Stakeholder input time consuming, but critical.

Go slow to go fast will hopefully pay off. Patience is hard.

Having state support added validity.



# NEXT STEPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## NEXT STEPS FOR OUR WORK

Analyze spring survey data.

Complete the data management system build out and implement surveys and other measures into the dashboard.

Use the results for improvement planning.

Take the same path in developing indicators and measures for community partnerships.

## OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK AT THE STATE LEVEL

Now more than ever, we all need more than the state assessment data for improvement.

For schools and district to be innovative, accountability systems must be able to capture that innovation.

New and innovative ways of measuring success of students is crucial and is a key area on which to focus, fund, and implement.



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