



# ISANA Nascent Academy

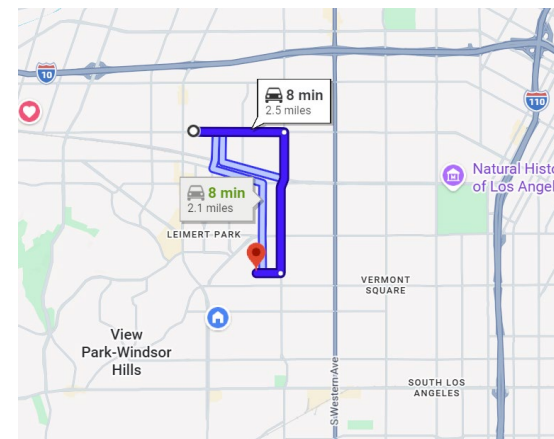
March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026



# ISANA Nascent Academy At A Glance



- ▶ TK-8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- ▶ Board District 1
- ▶ Serving the Jefferson Park and Leimert Park community since 2005 (21 years)
- ▶ 484 Students
- ▶ Split Across Two Campuses – Jefferson Boulevard and 42<sup>nd</sup> Elementary
- ▶ Mascot - Nighthawks



# ISANA Nascent Academy Demographics

- ▶ 92% Socioeconomically Disadvantaged
- ▶ 75% Hispanic/Latino
- ▶ 22% Black/African American
- ▶ 32% English Learners
- ▶ 20% Students with Disabilities
- ▶ Large number of Foster and/or Homeless Youth



# Equity and Justice at ISANA



## EQUITY & JUSTICE

### ISANA Objectives for Equity and Justice

We are committed to taking strategic and sustained action to empower our students, educators and communities with the tools they need to dismantle systems of oppression and create a more just world and commit to creating equitable practices in our classrooms and campus environments.

# EQUITY & JUSTICE

## OBJECTIVE A

Acknowledge and address the impacts of systemic racism on and within our educational system.

## OBJECTIVE B

Engage explicitly in educator **professional development** around racial justice, equity, and implicit bias.

## OBJECTIVE C

Critically analyze our curriculum for issues of privilege, bias and ensure that what we teach represents the histories of all peoples and prepares students to become critical thinkers and change-makers.

## OBJECTIVE D

Engage in instructional pedagogy that is culturally relevant and responsive, holds high expectations for students, and fosters student engagement.

## OBJECTIVE E

Embed in our school culture and structures opportunities to address the **social-emotional well-being** of students, educators, leadership, and the community.

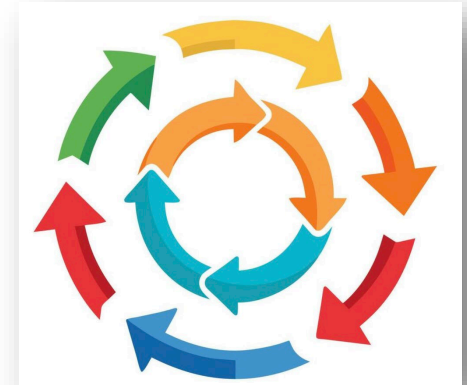
## OBJECTIVE F

Develop a collaborative system for inclusive partnerships with parents and community/stakeholders to ensure a well-rounded and effective student support system that addresses racial justice, equity, and implicit bias.



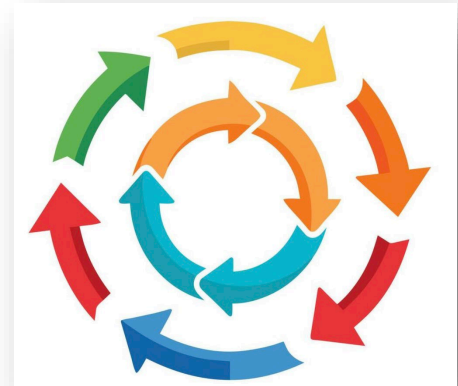
# ISANA's "Big 3"

- ▶ School Climate
- ▶ Academic Excellence
- ▶ Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Pedagogy



# ISANA's "Big 3"

- ▶ School Climate

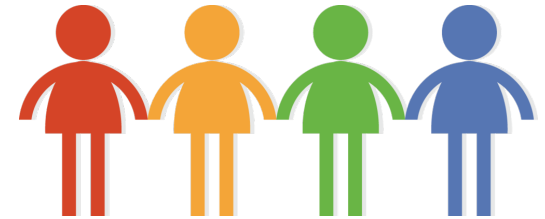


# School Climate in ISANA's LCAP and Equity and Justice Objectives

**Goal 2:** All students including students with disabilities, English Learners, foster youth and students from low SES will be educated in **culturally relevant** and **safe environments** that support **learning, engagement, and social-emotional wellness.**



**Goal 4:** ISANA will engage and involve **families** and the **community** as **visible** and **valued partners** in the education of all students.



## OBJECTIVE E

Embed in our school culture and structures opportunities to address the **social-emotional well-being** of students, educators, leadership, and the community.

## OBJECTIVE F

Develop a collaborative system for inclusive partnerships with parents and community/stakeholders to ensure a well-rounded and effective student support system that addresses racial justice, equity, and implicit bias.

# The Need

Post Pandemic:

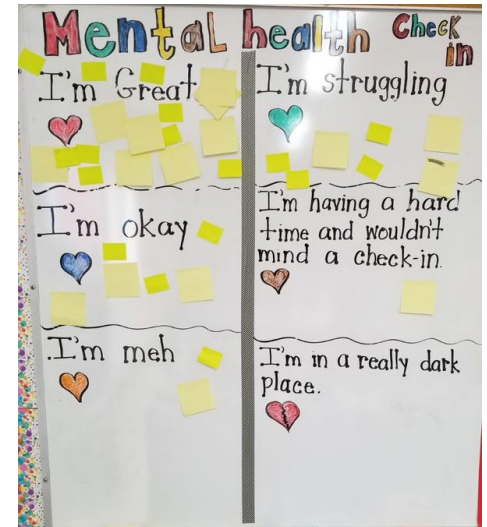
- High Chronic Absenteeism Rates
  - Increase in Student Behavioral Incidents
  - Increase in Families Expressing Basic Needs
- 

# ISANA Theme: Together We Shine

- ▶ Everyone shines and belongs at ISANA
- ▶ Everyone is an educator and every space is a learning space
- ▶ We do better when we do together
- ▶ Holistic, collaborative approach to helping students – across schools and departments – 6 schools and 6 departments




# Threshold Greetings and Morning Meetings with an SEL Focus



# Calm Corners / Zen Dens



# Family Engagement and Resources

- ▶ Family Workshop Series, Community Paint Nights
  - ▶ Tap Cards, Laundry, Food Give Aways, Book Giveaway, Resource Bookshelf
  - ▶ Family Re-Engagement Meetings
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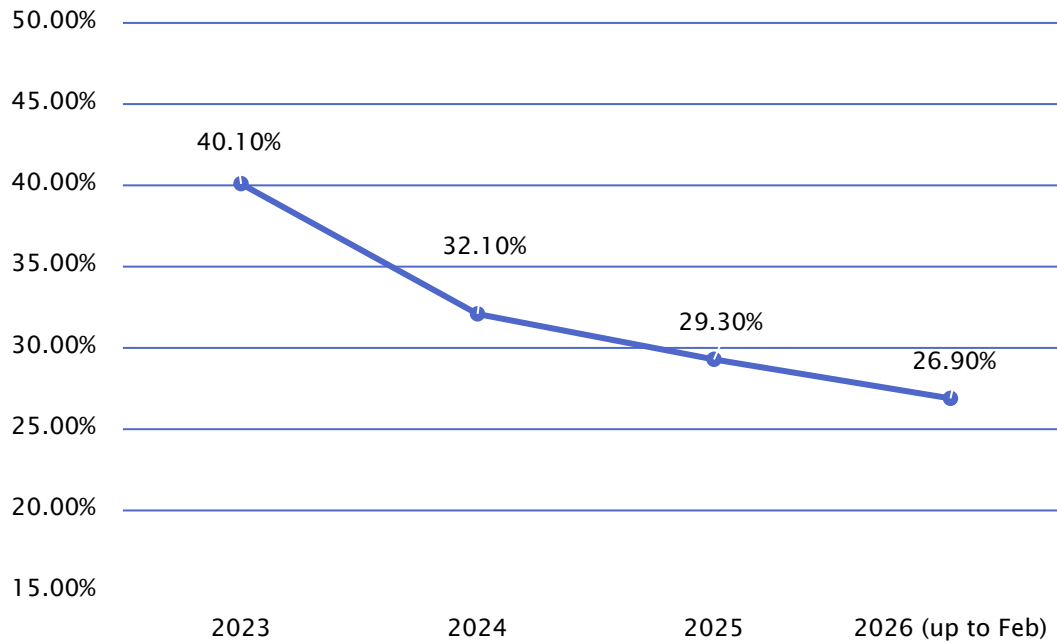
# Community Partnerships

## Heart of America, Jefferson Park Crime Coalition, and LA Clippers

- ▶ Transformed outdoor learning and play spaces with a brand-new, developmentally rich playground featuring sensory, creative, and athletic equipment
- ▶ Completed campus beautification projects, including large-scale murals
- ▶ Expanded access to literacy resources through the donation of approximately 150 books
- ▶ Donation of basketball hoops and shoes
- ▶ Established ISANA Nascent Academy as a consistent community hub by hosting monthly meetings that bring together residents, LAPD, elected officials, and community organizations
- ▶ Supported community advocacy efforts related to environmental justice, public health, and neighborhood planning that directly impact ISANA students and families

# Results of Work in School Climate

ISANA Nascent Academy Chronic Absenteeism  
Percentage Over Time

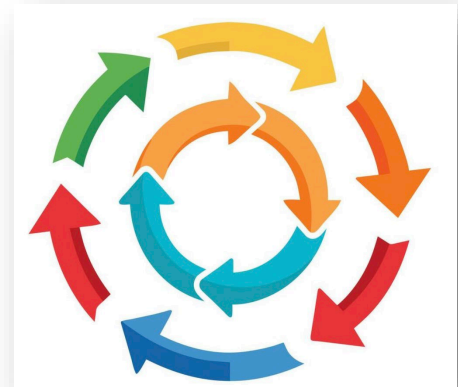


93% of families expressed Agree or Strongly Agree on questions about Nascent's school climate, and about the community resources and support the school provided

School	Suspension Rate	Expulsion Rate	Middle School Dropout
✓ ISANA Nascent	0%	0%	0%

# ISANA's "Big 3"

- ▶ Academic Excellence



# Academic Excellence in ISANA's LCAP and Equity and Justice Objectives

**Goal 1:** ISANA will provide **all students** including students with disabilities, English Learners, foster youth and students from low SES backgrounds **access to high quality and culturally affirming learning experiences in order for them to demonstrate continuous growth** toward achieving the skills of the Common Core State Standards and CA Next Generation Science Standards.



## OBJECTIVE B

Engage explicitly in educator **professional development** around racial justice, equity, and implicit bias.

## OBJECTIVE C

Critically analyze our curriculum for issues of privilege, bias and ensure that what we teach represents the histories of all peoples and prepares students to become critical thinkers and change-makers.

## OBJECTIVE D

Engage in instructional pedagogy that is **culturally relevant and responsive**, holds high expectations for students, and fosters student engagement.

# The Need

- Decrease in proficiency in ELA and Math, under state levels
- Opportunity Gap with Student Groups

# ELA – Reading

## Knowledge Building ELA Curriculum

- ▶ Implementation of knowledge-building curriculum that integrates **science, social studies, and literature**
- ▶ Authentic, **high-interest novels** and texts
- ▶ **Equitable conferencing** to increase supports for the most at-need students
- ▶ Consistent **reading level monitoring**

## Systematic and Explicit Foundational Skill Instruction at All Levels

- ▶ Magnetic Reading K-2
- ▶ Intervention:
  - Phonics For Reading 3-8
  - University Of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI)





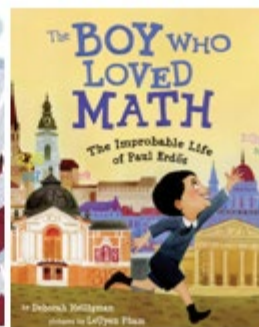
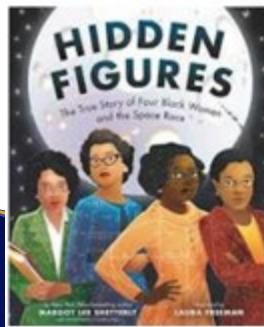
# Writing Professional Development Partnership: Literacy Partners

- ▶ 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers have participated in literacy institutes to:
  - Build teacher capacity
  - Boost student engagement
  - Focus on culturally responsive teaching and hands-on strategies for writing
  - Improve student outcomes in writing
- ▶ *2026 -2027 will see expansion to additional grade levels*



# Student-Centered Math Instruction

- ▶ Discussion-based mathematics instruction
- ▶ Learners engage in:
  - Individual think time
  - Partner talk
  - Independent writing
  - Whole class discourse
- ▶ 5 Year Partnership in Math Literacy Project
  - Math Identity
  - Academic Rigor and Engagement in Math Tasks
  - Connection to Culture and Family



Student  
Mathematician of  
the Week



Mathematician  
of the week





# Systematic and Ongoing Data Analysis

- Diagnostic Assessment Data Chats –
  - Network Level and School Leader
  - School Leader and Teacher
  - Teacher and Student
- Weekly Grade Level Meetings, Weekly Teacher PD, Biweekly Principal Data Meetings, Monthly Instructional Coach Professional Development
- Instructional Coaches at each site

# Co-Teaching

## Premise of Co-Teaching

- ▶ “If educators with **varying areas of expertise and frames of reference** are able to come together and collaborate on a daily basis in the same classroom, all students will benefit more: socially, behaviorally, and... academically.”

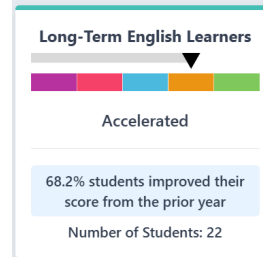
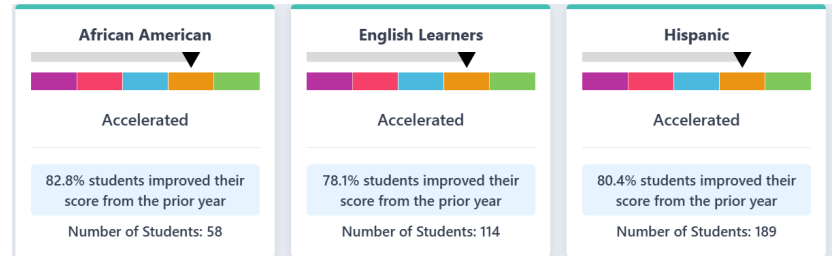
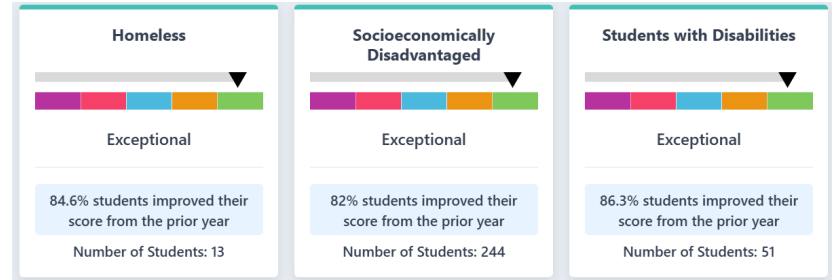
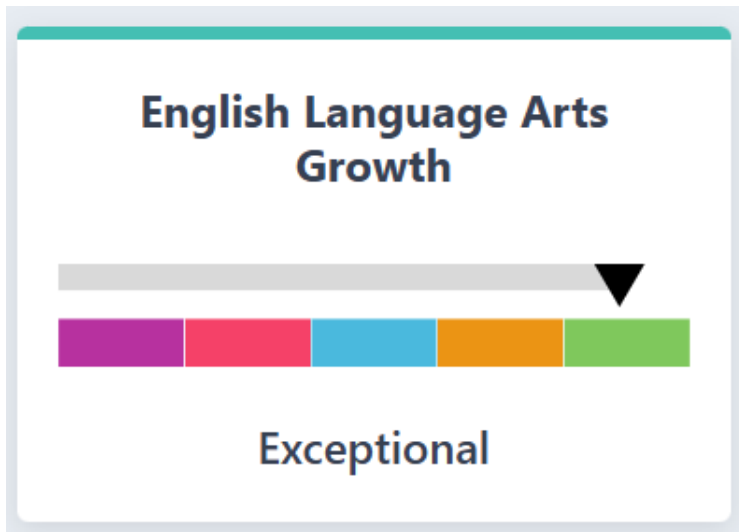


# Results of Work in Academic Excellence

## 2025 California School Dashboard Achievements

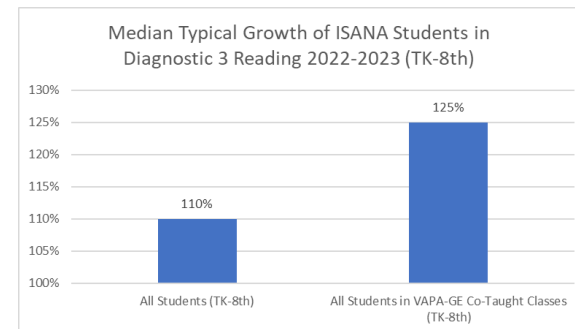
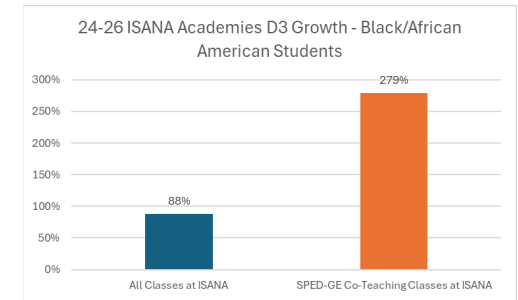
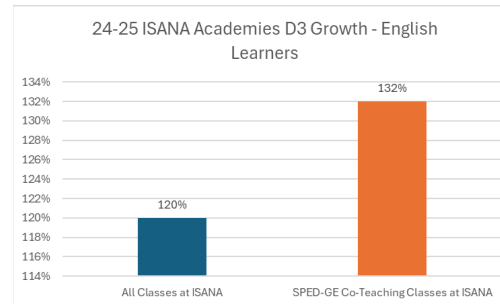
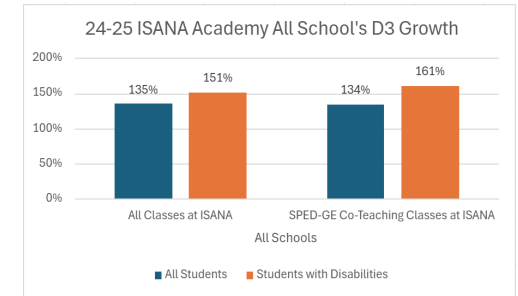
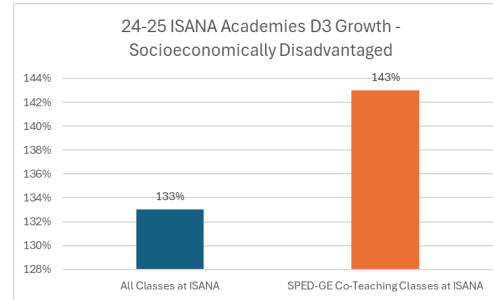
Dashboard Area	Dashboard Achievement
ELA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Learners had a DFS <b>higher than</b> the state</li> <li>Schoolwide Data <b>Increased</b> from last year (by 8 DFS points)</li> <li>Students with Disabilities <b>Increased Significantly</b> from last year (by 24.1 DFS points)</li> <li>Hispanic/Latino students <b>Increased</b> from last year (by 10.4 DFS points)</li> <li>English Learners <b>Increased</b> from last year (by 7.4 DFS points)</li> <li>Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students <b>Increased</b> from last year (by 7.1 DFS points)</li> <li>African American students <b>Increased</b> from last year (by 4 DFS points)</li> </ul>
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Learners had a DFS <b>higher than</b> the state</li> <li>Schoolwide Data and every Student Group <b>Increased Significantly</b> from last year (by 15.7 DFS points)</li> <li>Students with Disabilities <b>Increased Significantly</b> from last year (by 26.7 DFS points)</li> <li>English Learners <b>Increased Significantly</b> from last year (by 17.9 DFS points)</li> <li>Hispanic/Latino students <b>Increased Significantly</b> from last year (by 16.7 DFS points)</li> <li>Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students <b>Increased Significantly</b> from last year (by 15.8 DFS points)</li> <li>African American students <b>Increased Significantly</b> from last year (by 13.1 points)</li> </ul>
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Learners had a DFS <b>higher than</b> the state</li> <li>Schoolwide Data and every Student Group <b>Increased</b> from last year</li> </ul>

# New Growth Metric on California Dashboard for ISANA Nascent Academy



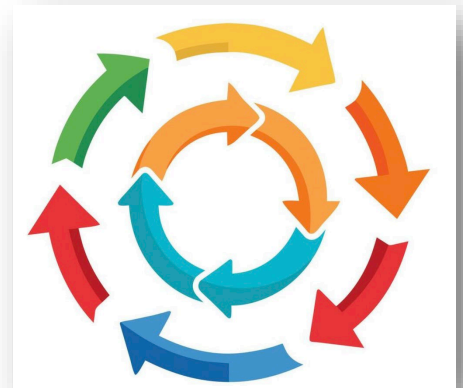
# Co-Teaching Results: Accelerated Growth

- Students with Disabilities in Co-Taught Classes: **10% more growth** (151% to 161%) in co-taught classes
- Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Students: **10% more growth** (133% to 143%) in co-taught classes
- English Learners: **12% more growth** (120% to 132%) in co-taught classes
- Black/African American Students: **191% more growth** (151% to 161%) in co-taught classes
- All students: **15% more growth** in co-taught VAPA classes



# ISANA's “Big 3”

- ▶ Culturally Relevant, Responsive, and Sustaining Pedagogy





ISANA Nascent Academy is participating in the Los Angeles County Office of Education GENIUS Initiative, using improvement science to examine and redesign systems that affect African-American student experience and academic engagement.

# Visual and Performing Arts

*Advancing Student Voice, Creativity, and Academic Engagement Through the Arts*

**ISANA SCHOLARS**  
are well versed in The Arts



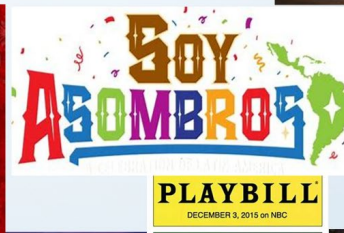
## Our Performing Arts Program

Arts Education through Visual and Performing Arts is a high priority for all ISANA Academy schools. Students participate in two show presentations each school year that explore cultural diversity, current events, and musical theatre classics. Middle school students have the option of choosing their Enrichment Course and altering their participation in various arts roles, such as props and set design, production assistant, assistant stage manager, and more. Our arts instructors are professional artists that strive to provide high-quality instruction in **Acting, Dance, Vocal and Visual Arts** through innovative arts classes, performances, and field trips. As we work to cultivate our students in the arts, it is the mission of ISANA to develop students that will become active patrons of the arts and know that their creative voice matters.

For more info contact April Thomas, Director of The Arts  
[athomas@isanaacademies.org](mailto:athomas@isanaacademies.org)



## ISANA Nights at the Theater



# Visual and Performing Arts

## Student Impact

### ▶ **Schoolwide Participation**

Opportunities for students to engage in performance, stage production, storytelling, and technical theatre.

### ▶ **Career Exposure in the Arts**

Students explore careers including acting, dancing, singing, set design, stage management, prop manager, costume assistant, production assistant, runner, etc.

### ▶ **Experiential Learning**

Field trips to professional productions expand exposure to diverse cultures, history, and POV.

### ▶ **Arts Literacy & Critical Thinking**

Standards-aligned production study guides connect performance with reading, identity, and community.

### ▶ **Creative Media & Literacy Development**

Scholars strengthen their own literacy skills through their personal and collaborative engagement with VAPA's first audiobook of our original script, "Hidden Stories."

### ▶ **Point of View**

A safe place for multiple exposures to point of view

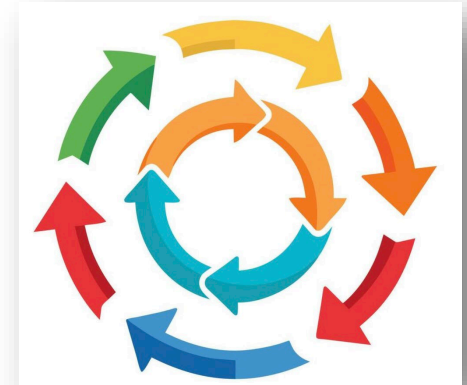
# Newsies Jr. Showcase Clip





# ISANA's "Big 3"

- ▶ School Climate
- ▶ Academic Excellence
- ▶ Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Pedagogy





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OBRIGADO

RAHMET

GRAZIE

谢谢

KIITOS

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ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ

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