WALDEN SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS



Diana West, Founder and Title I Coordinator

Walden is a place where social, emotional, and academic growth are valued equally, a place where students see possibilities, make meaningful choices, take risks, and emerge with a stronger sense of identity, belonging and purpose. It is a place where critical thought, creativity and independence are nurtured; where empathy, cultural awareness and tolerance are valued. We champion student choice and autonomy, authentic research and project work. Our purpose is to develop competent, self-motivated learners dedicated to making positive contributions to society.

WALDEN SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS



Walden is a Title I school.

Please watch this presentation to learn more about Walden's programs and your rights as a parent.

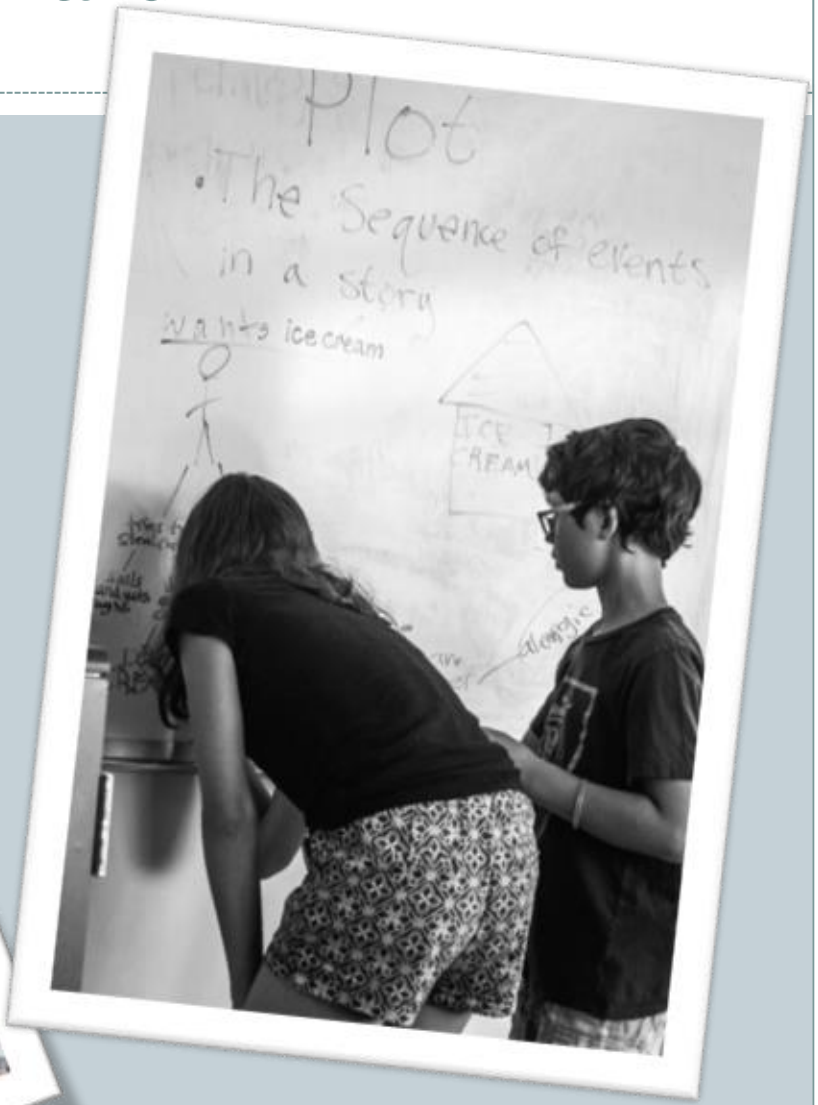
The Walden Way

- To be empowered to make a positive difference in the world
- To foster the development of your own unique identity and voice and walk your own individual path
- To find a personal and compelling purpose in your learning experience and make it your own
- To contribute the best you have to yourself and your learning community—knowing the reward that comes from effort. What you put into your education is what you get out of it.
- To be fully included in a community of learners of all ages

We Work Hard

I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestioned ability of a man to elevate his life by conscious endeavor.

~ Henry David Thoreau





We are Adventurous





We are Ethical & Compassionate

What lies behind us and what lies ahead of us

are small matters compared to what lies within us.

~ Henry David Thoreau





We are Exuberant

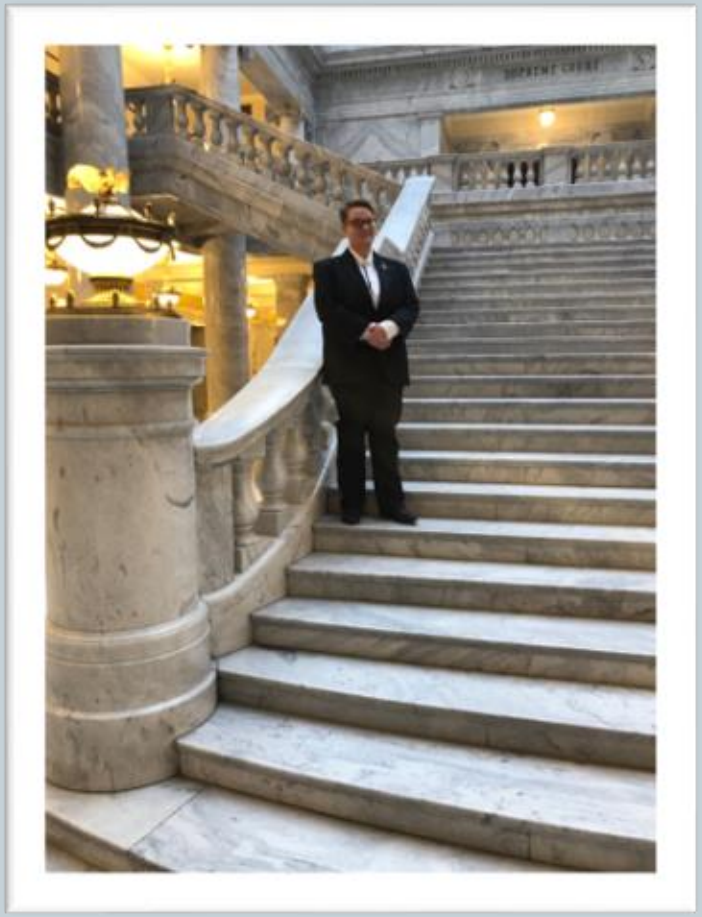
All good things are wild and free

~ Thoreau





Our Students Achieve National, State, & Local Honors



Are the flowers not worthy of the bees?

Are the deserts not worthy of rain?

Are the mountains and valleys and forests and lakes not worthy of their own given beauty?

Are we not worthy of love?

~Jordan Hunter (Walden Graduate) from
A Collection of Four Poems

We Travel the World on Expeditions



We should come home from adventures, and perils, and discoveries every day with new experience and character.

~Thoreau



Juniors & Seniors Go College Hopping



Learning At Walden

Walden students have many unique opportunities to broaden their learning experiences. The following slides highlight some of these unique aspects of a Walden education.

Prioritizing Student Wellbeing and Learning



There is a crack in everything; that's how the light gets in.
~Leonard Cohen

College and Career Pathways



Students engage in a rigorous process of learning that prepares them for rewarding careers. Competitive pathways and certifications are available, including internships, projects, and portfolios that can be used for college and career applications.

Field Trips and Expeditions



- Field Trips
- Expeditions
- Walden Walk
- Collaborative Classes
- Project Work
- Service Days
- Collaboration

Collaborative Classes



Collaborative Classes are a designated time for group and individual **projects** when **Deeper learning** on seminar work can occur.

Collaborative classes prioritize serving others in the community through Walden's **Community Connections.** Examples include helping to shape Walden's future by participating in **Walden Way committees**; planning **Walden expeditions and events;** and **p**reparing for upcoming **performances and competitions**

Montessori Curriculum



Individualized Instruction

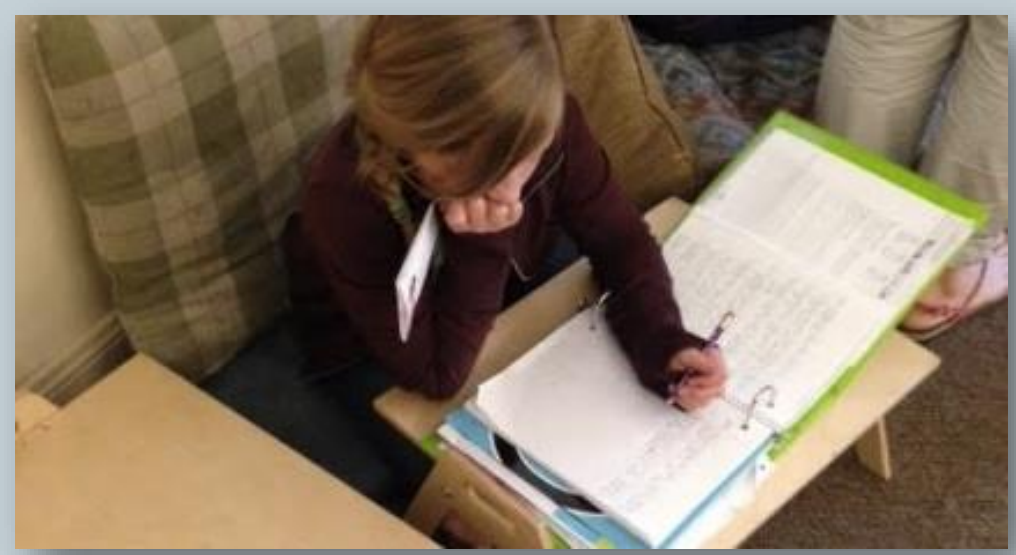


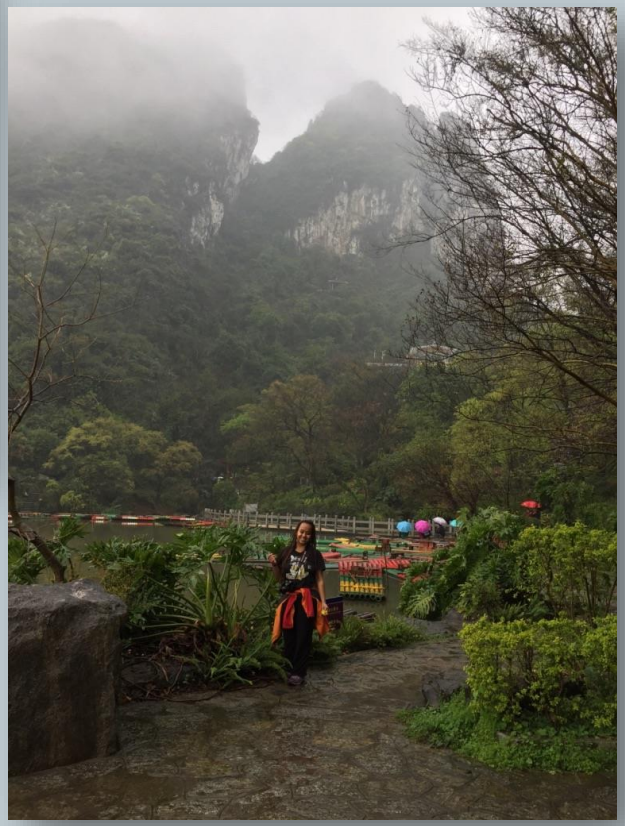
Active Learning & Community Volunteer Academies





Personal Pathways





"If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours."

~Thoreau

Hands On Learning

"He does it with his hands, by experience, first in play and then through work. The hands are the instruments of man's intelligence." ~Montessori





Strong Parent Community



Walden School of Liberal Arts Strengths and Challenges





Strength 1: Students

Our focus is on our students. . .







Strength 2: Small Classes

Every student is known and mentored by multiple adults.







Strength 3: Amazing Faculty

Dedicated teachers and support staff work together to create amazing learning opportunities for all students.









Strength 4: Grand adventures



Strength 5: Before and Afterschool Programs

- C.A.S.A.
- Community Partnerships
- Shakespeare and Theater
- Chess Club
- Homework Help and Tablet Time
- Enrichment Programs
- Breakfast Club
- More



Strength 6: Parent Participation

- Classroom Volunteers
- Fundraising Support
- Safety Committee
- Field Trips Chaperones
- A Diverse Community
- More





Challenge 1: Strengthen Academic Outcomes for all Students

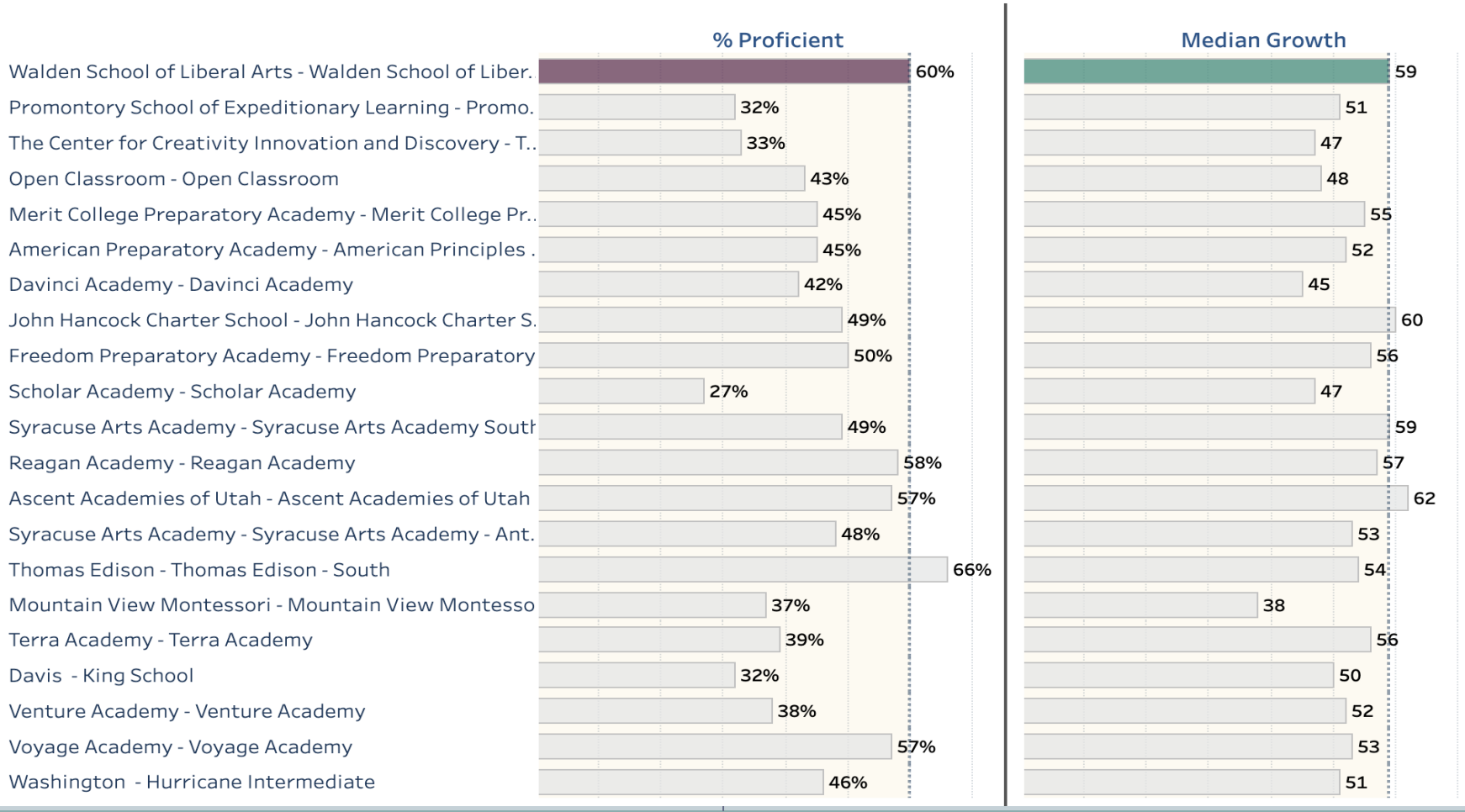
Walden has a high number of students with learning challenges. We want to make sure that our instructional model allows for each student to learn at their optimum level.



Strong Academic Growth and Achievement-ELA

Comparisons for Walden School of Liberal Arts - Walden School of Liberal Arts

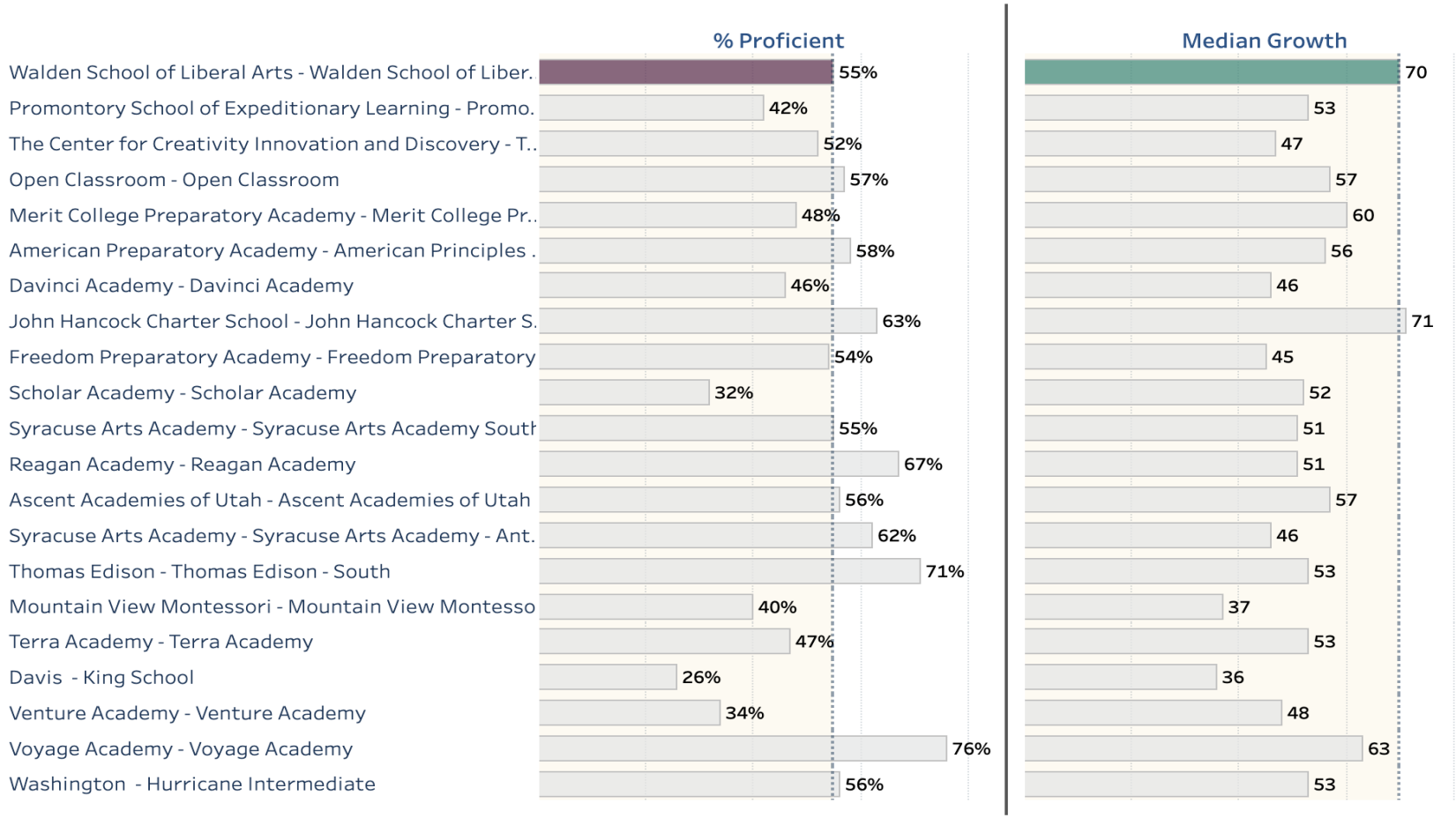
Assessment: 3-10 RISE - ELA (2026)



Strong Academic Growth and Achievement-Sci

Comparisons for Walden School of Liberal Arts - Walden School of Liberal Arts

Assessment: 3-10 RISE - SCI (2026)



Challenge & Strength: Math Outcomes

Walden Math Scores continue to improve each year, roughly mirroring the state's overall growth and achievement.

We will maintain our focus on improving Math Scores for Walden Students.



School Improvement Goal 1: **Improve school wide mathematics proficiency**

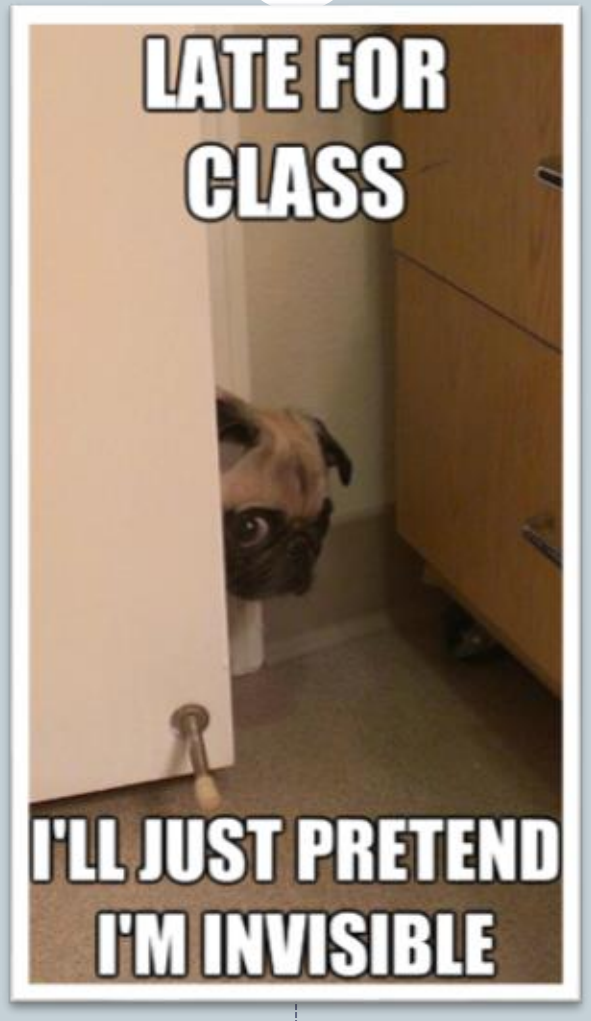
Raise mathematics proficiency scores by 3% per year in third, sixth, and ninth grades.



Challenge 2: Improving Schoolwide Attendance

Transportation is perhaps the biggest challenge facing Utah charter school families. However, data show that regular school attendance is a signal indicator of school and lifelong success.

School Improvement Goal 2:
Improve Attendance & Timely Arrival



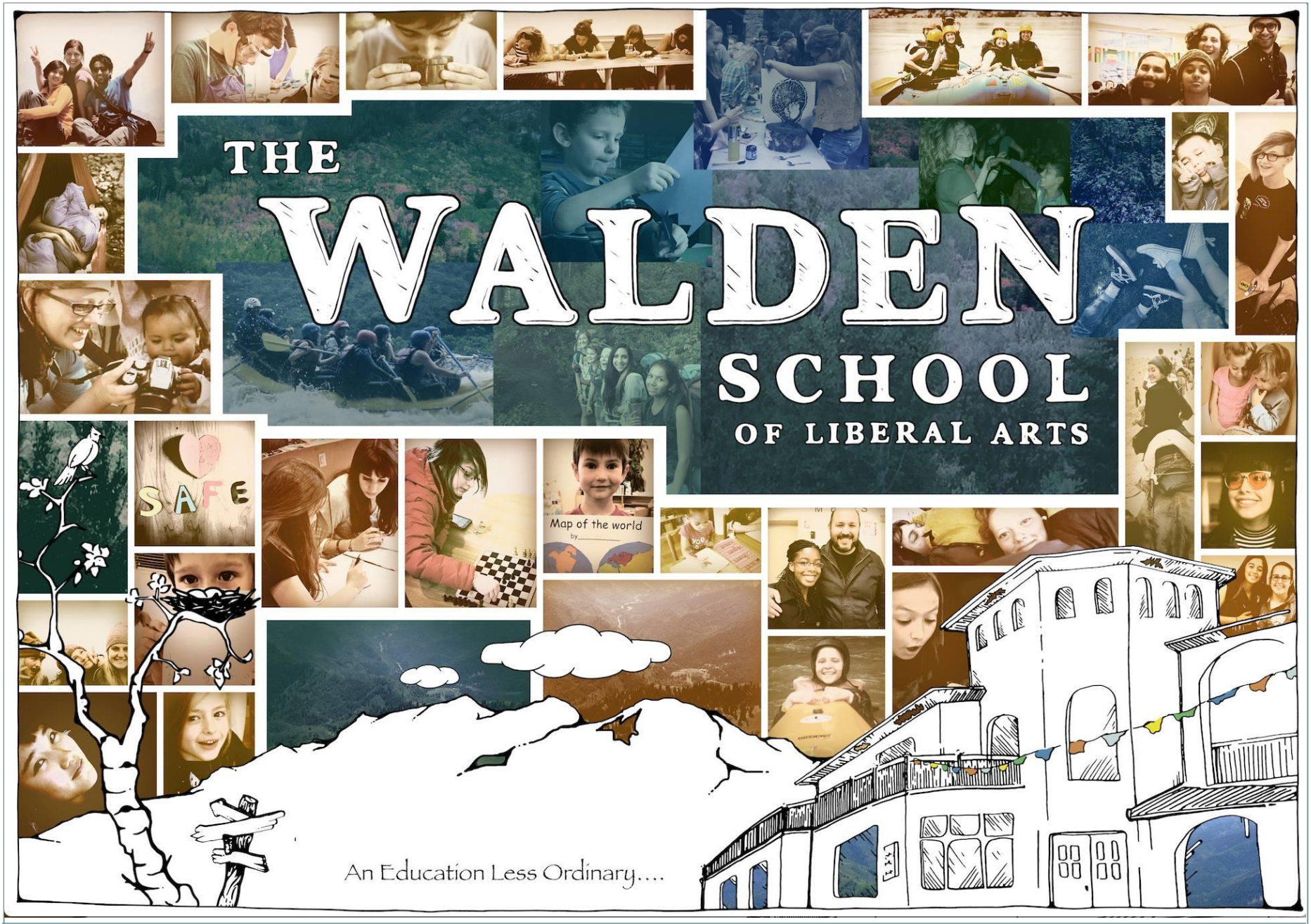
Walden is a Title I School

THIS MEANS THAT:

- **WE HAVE A LARGE ENOUGH PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES THAT FALL INTO THE QUALIFYING RANGE OF LOW INCOME.**
- **THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GIVES US FUNDING TO USE SCHOOLWIDE TO IMPROVE LEARNING OUTCOMES.**
- **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE INVOLVED!**

How Can You be Involved?

1. **VOLUNTEER**
2. **ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR ASSESSMENT PROCESSES AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**
3. **REVIEW THESE HANDOUTS:**
    1. Parental Involvement Policy
    2. School-Parent-Student Compact
    3. School Report Card
4. **ATTEND/REQUEST REGULAR STUDENT PROGRESS MEETINGS**
5. **SHARE YOUR IDEAS ON HOW WE CAN BEST SERVE WALDEN STUDENTS**


THE
WALDEN
SCHOOL
OF LIBERAL ARTS
SAFE
Map of the world
by
An Education Less Ordinary....