

# Victor Senior High School

## Victor Central School District, Victor, New York

**Location type:** Large suburb

**District enrollment:** 4,393 students

**School enrollment:** 1,400 students

**Percentage of students at school eligible for free and reduced price meals:** 11

### Key Takeaways

Victor Senior High School, a high-achieving school in a middle-class suburb of New York, performed well on the OECD Test for Schools in 2014, performing above Finland in reading. But after studying the school's results, the leadership team realized that students were mostly achieving as predicted based on their socioeconomic status rather than achieving above expectations as a result of any additional "value added" by the school's instructional program. School leadership has rallied around this insight, using the OECD Test for Schools as the "guiding light" for the school's annual strategic planning process. Based on its results, Victor Senior High School has preliminarily identified priority areas for improvement: connecting instruction to real world situations to build students' instrumental motivation, encouraging students to read a wider variety of materials to strengthen reading skills, and further developing students' critical thinking skills.

### Actions Taken

- ✔ The school has engaged deeply in analyzing and sharing the school's results with both district and school staff to promote widespread understanding regarding the level of rigor students must meet in order to excel in college and their careers, as well as the extent to which Victor Senior High School is supporting its students in meeting such expectations.
    - The Library Media Specialist has spent time at faculty meetings helping teachers to use sophisticated databases so that they know how to access quality journal articles with appropriate complexity levels.
  - ✔ The administrators in Victor District's five schools have made plans to compare the OECD Test for Schools results with the NYS Common Core results in grades 3-8 to determine areas in which the district could better prepare students to achieve at the higher proficiency levels.
  - ✔ Victor Senior High School has also participated actively in Global Learning Network programming -- specifically the New York regional meeting held in July 2014 and the 2014 Convening of World-Leading Schools -- to better understand their results and engage in peer learning in order to identify ways to improve both practice and policy.
- Those wishing to learn more about the practices at Victor Senior High School may visit the school's website [here](#).**
- ✔ Following this analysis, the school has incorporated the OECD Test for Schools into its district goals:
    - The school is starting with a focus on literacy and plans to use the PISA/OECD reading proficiency levels rubric as a guide.
    - Victor Senior worked with a literacy consultant last year to train teachers on understanding the Common Core shifts and how to embed increased rigor into classroom instruction.
    - The school is also using significantly more non-fiction text with students, and teachers spend more time using charts, graphs and illustrative texts, which are often used in the OECD Test for Schools.
    - Teachers are learning how to write better text-dependent questions at higher levels. Last year, the school specifically targeted the English, social studies, and science departments. This year, the PE, technology, art, and music departments will be the focus.