HISTORY
• SOTA was established as a high school in Tacoma Public Schools in 2001
• SAMI was established as a high school in Tacoma Public Schools in 2009
• IDEA was established as a high school in Tacoma Public Schools in 2016
• Tacoma Public Schools is the second-largest school district in the State of Washington with nearly 29,000 students in pre K-12
• 1 out of every 5 high school students attend SOTA, SAMI and IDEA

RESULTS
• The highest graduation rates over the last 17 years, ranging from 92.5% to 100%
• 100% of juniors and seniors take college-level courses for college credit
• 87.1% of students go on to higher education
• 40% acceptance into highly selective 4-year universities and colleges
• 100% of students served in special education graduate with a standard diploma
• 12% of our students are in special education
• 100% of special education students are enrolled in general education classes

DIVERSITY, RIGOR & INCLUSION
• 46% of students are students of color
• 48% of students qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL)
• Some of the highest test scores (SBAC, HSPE, EOC) in our district and in the South Puget Sound Region
• SAT scores average 1480 with highest 2140 combined
• Students across the schools participate in year-long internships as juniors and seniors
• Over 20 college-level courses are offered to juniors and seniors while in high school
• Instructional staff on average have over 11 years of teaching experience
• 82% of staff members have a master’s degree or higher
• Many instructors are National Board Certified

MAJOR SUPPORTERS
• Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
• Russell Family Foundation
• Frank Russell Investment Company
• The Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation
• Washington State Arts Commission
• Robert B. McMillen Foundation
• Laird Norton Family Foundation
• Ben B. Cheney Foundation
• Washington STEM

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
• Individual donations to Elements of Eduction (501(c)3 directly supports SOTA, SAMI, IDEA with donations that have exceeded $4 million since 2001.

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS
• Kennedy Center’s National Schools of Distinction in Arts Education Award – (2010-11)
• OSPI STEM Lighthouse Award – (2011)
• OSPI Washington State Innovative Schools – (2011)
• OSPI School of Distinction – 2011
• Washington State Board of Education Achievement Award – (2012)
• OSPI School of Distinction – 2016

“To see the new 3R’s (rigor, relationships and relevance) in action, you need look only as far as Tacoma’s School of the Arts.”

Melinda French Gates
Co-Founder
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation