



2025-2026

ANNUAL REPORT

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A Message from our Executive Director

Dear VinE Stakeholders,

Volunteers in Education had another exciting and impactful school year in 2025-2026. We served nine rural schools across St. Louis County, Mt. Iron-Buhl, and Rock Ridge school districts. With more tutors serving in the schools than in previous years, VinE reached hundreds of students every month.

More tutors than ever joined us for a day of learning during our preservice tutor education seminar, which was also a wonderful chance to build community among our tutors and staff. Many tutors completed an additional 10 hours of early literacy training throughout the fall, further demonstrating their commitment to providing high-quality tutoring to early readers.

VinE's dedicated volunteer tutors gave generously of their time, sharing their knowledge, experience, and expertise with students. Tutors developed and nurtured strong, trusting relationships with students, thereby improving learning, boosting self-confidence, and increasing classroom engagement. The classrooms and schools became deeper learning communities where students, community members, and staff found rich ways to learn and belong together.

We are grateful to our volunteers and funding partners, without whom VinE's free tutoring program could not exist. Thank you for your support!

Thank you for partnering with VinE,

Teresa de Venecia
Executive Director
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Overview

VinE's Mission

Volunteers in Education engages the community in educating its students, supporting their growth, and preparing them for productive citizenship.

VinE's Vision

As a result of our work, community members will know they have a place in the school. Community volunteerism will increase to help students become confident and successful in their education.

VinE's Beliefs

- Every child can learn
- Tutors make a difference
- Vibrant schools result from engaged communities
- Communities are stronger when students perform better

VinE's Approach

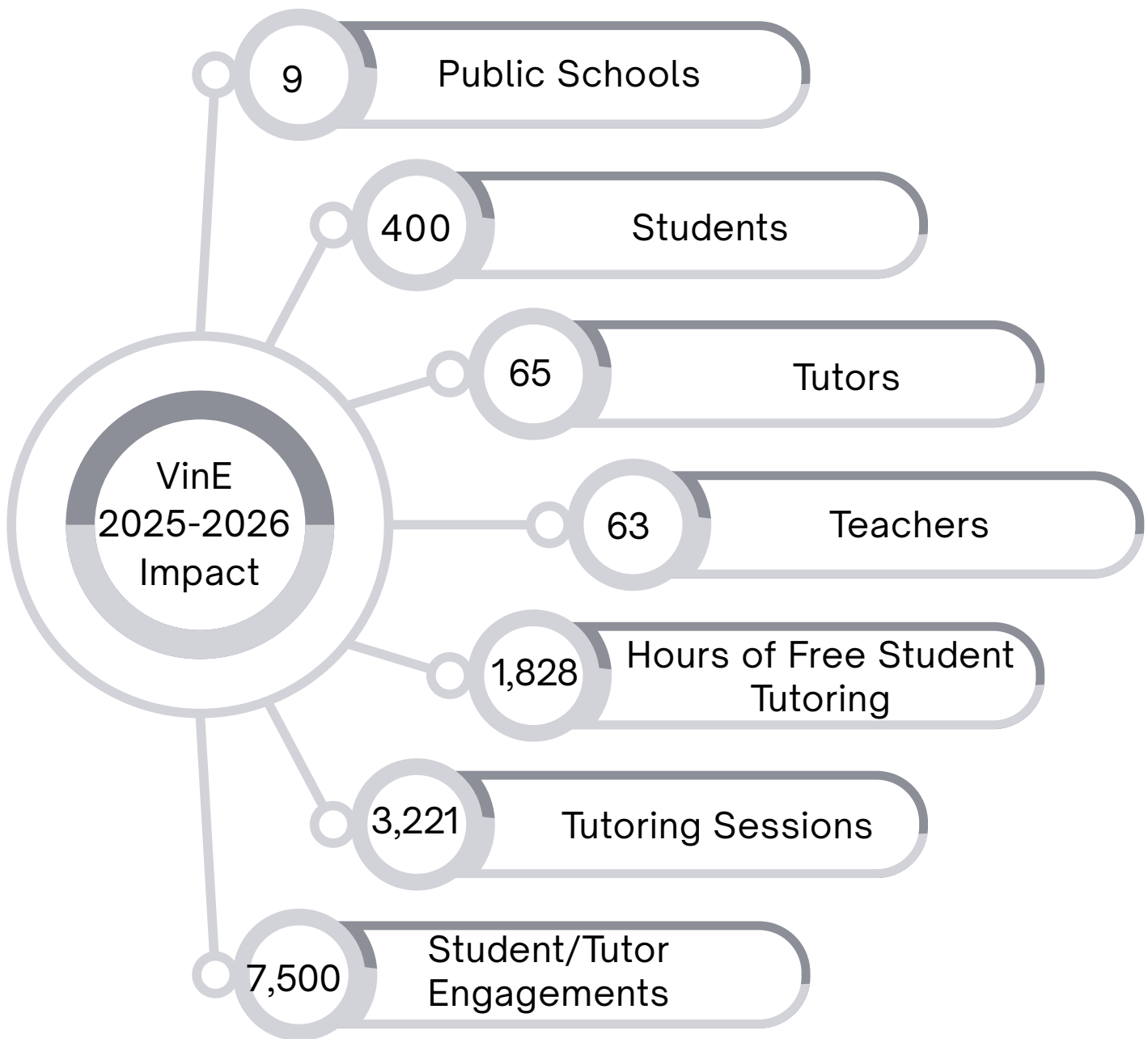
VinE helps students thrive by improving their academic achievement while supporting their social-emotional learning and positive youth development.

VinE's Methods

Teachers refer PK-12 students to VinE's free tutoring program for academic support across all academic disciplines. VinE Tutors work with students individually, in small groups, and in the full classroom. Tutors establish and nurture a safe and trusting relationship with their students to improve learning, build self-confidence, and increase classroom engagement.



VinE's Impact in 2025-2026



VinE's Effects on Students and Learning in 2025-2026

- 96% of teachers report that student proficiency in the tutored area improved.
- 89% of teachers report that students' interest in the subject being tutored increased.
- 100% of teachers report that students benefited from the positive relationship with their VinE tutor.
- 100% of teachers report increased self-confidence for students who worked with a VinE tutor.
- 100% of teachers report that students who worked with a VinE tutor demonstrated increased classroom engagement.
- 100% of teachers report that students who worked with a VinE tutor demonstrated improved work completion.
- 100% of teachers report that students who worked with a VinE tutor demonstrated improved work quality.
- 100% of teachers report that students who worked with a VinE tutor demonstrated overall benefit.



VinE Stakeholder Stories

“As a retired teacher, volunteering gives me a renewed sense of purpose. I am able to recommend materials and help develop a comprehensive process to make student/tutor interactions as focused and strategic as possible. I see firsthand how one-on-one and small-group tutoring experiences create comfortable, safe spaces to develop, take risks, and celebrate achievements. Relationships provide a sense of belonging and inclusion that students may not feel in the broader classroom and school settings.

Fostering a sense of belonging can lead to consistent engagement, better understanding, and progress for learners across backgrounds. The presence of volunteers from the community shows students that adults in the school are part of a shared, supportive network. Involving community members in our schools builds vital links between educators and local residents.”

- Vine Tutor

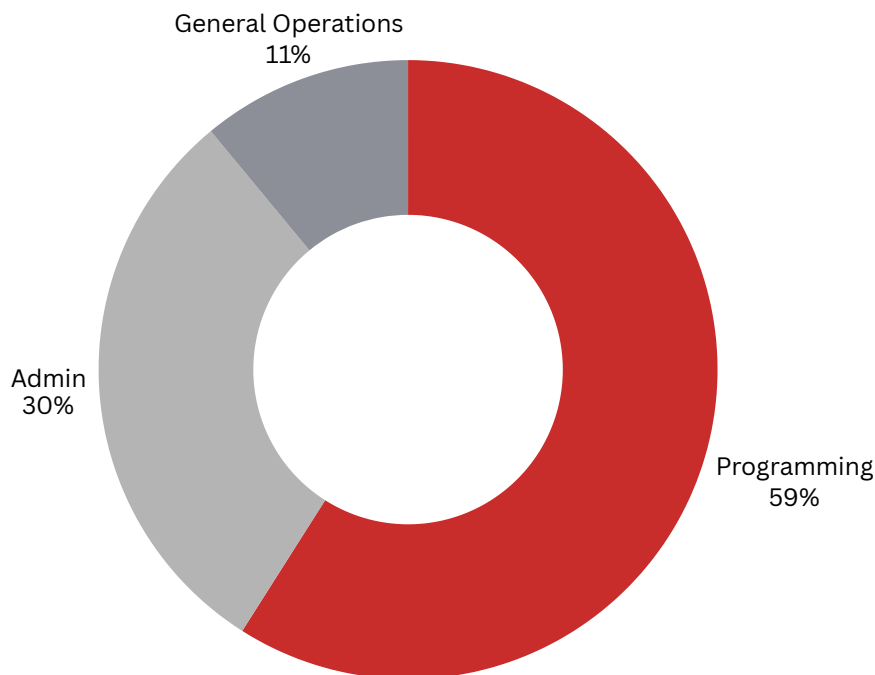
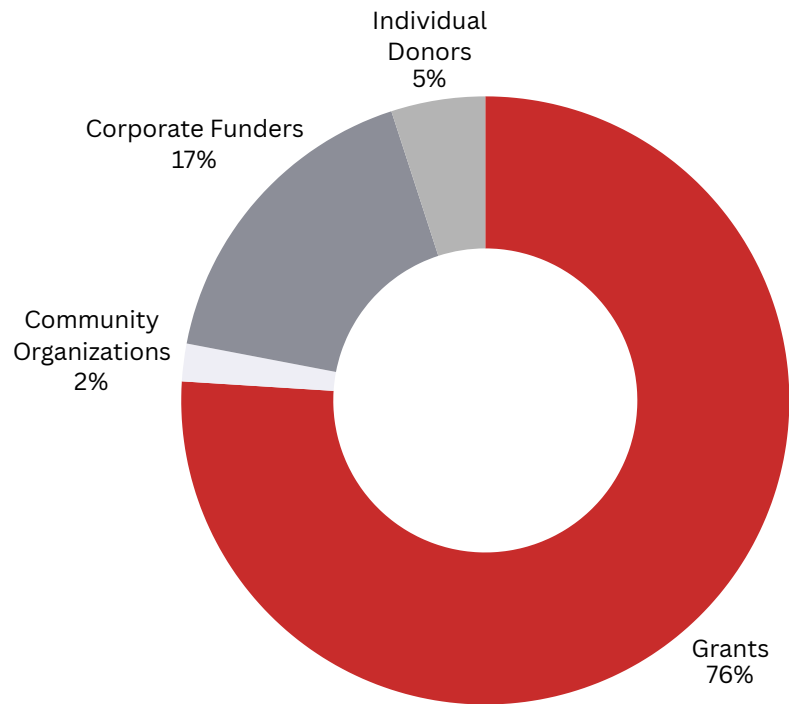
“In elementary classrooms, it can be challenging to consistently provide every student with the focused attention they may need. VinE tutors provide an additional layer of support by reinforcing skills, encouraging perseverance, and helping students build confidence in their learning. Through regular one-on-one and small-group interactions, tutors create a supportive environment where students feel comfortable asking questions, making mistakes, and growing as learners.

The program's impact extends well beyond academics. Many students become more willing to participate in class, share ideas, and take academic risks after building relationships with their tutors. Tutors help students feel connected, supported, and valued within the school environment, strengthening both emotional well-being and a sense of belonging.”

- Grade 3 Teaching Team

VinE Financials in 2025-2026

Income
2025-2026
\$98,354



Expenses
2025-2026
\$78,753*

*True-Cost Budget

VinE Thanks You!

We are grateful to all of our supporters for volunteering, making a grant or donation, cheering us on, and spreading the word about Volunteers in Education and the positive impact of our free tutoring program!

Participating Schools

- North Woods, Cook (ISD 2142)
- Northeast Range, Babbitt (ISD 2142)
- Tower-Soudan, Tower (ISD 2142)
- Cherry, Iron Junction (ISD 2142)
- South Ridge, Culver (ISD 2142)
- Mt. Iron-Buhl, Mt. Iron (ISD 712)
- Laurentian, Eveleth (ISD 2909)
- North Star, Virginia (ISD 2909)
- Parkview, Virginia (ISD 2909)



Organization & Community Funding Partners

- Boreal Waters Community Foundation
- Cook Lions Club
- Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club
- Cleveland-Cliffs Foundation
- Essentia Health
- Eveleth-Gilbert Community Foundation
- Iron Range Rotary Club
- Northland Foundation
- Twin Ports Dermatology
- United Way of Northeastern Minnesota
- Virginia Community Foundation
- Virginia Elks Club

Individual Funding Partners

- Kim Clark
- William & Bailey Conger
- Teresa & Eric de Venecia
- Amy Janssen
- Wendy Jordan
- Nathan & Jackie Lebeque
- Mary Troutwine
- Debra & Edward Warner