

**St. Cloud Area School District 742
Title I Parent and Family Engagement
2021-2022**

Our Mission is to provide a safe and caring climate and culture in which we engage, inspire, educate, prepare, and empower all learners in partnership with their surrounding community to be successful in today's and tomorrow's society.

PURPOSE:

Title One Parent and Family Engagement fosters practices and activities that are designed to support students and their families in the St. Cloud Area School District 742 Title I schools. Title I is the primary federal education grant that provides additional funding for students needing support in meeting grade-level expectations and standards. St. Cloud Area School District 742 Title I schools include Discovery Community School, Kennedy Community School, Lincoln Elementary School, Madison Elementary School, Oak Hill Community School, Talahi Community School, Westwood Elementary School, North Junior High School, and South Junior High School. There are many opportunities for family engagement at each of these sites as described within each site's Plan and Compact, both of which are posted on their websites.

For the purposes of this document, the abbreviation, FEP, will be used to refer to the Family Engagement Plan-Policy.

BELIEF STATEMENT:

We believe that. . .

- *Everyone deserves equitable access to the highest quality of learning to maximize individual potential.*
- *Multiple and differing perspectives contribute to informed decision-making and learning.*
- *We all benefit when communities work together toward common goals.*
- *Lifelong learning is essential for individuals to shape and thrive in our global society.*
- *The greatest level of individual success is achieved through shared ownership by the individual, families, schools, and our communities.*

GENERAL STATEMENT OF PLAN:

It is the policy of the St. Cloud Area School District 742 Title I Schools to plan and implement practices that involve parents in their children's academic achievement and school experience. The term "parent" shall include legal guardian or individual legally standing in the place of a parent such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child resides and who is legally responsible for the child's welfare.

In order to implement such family engagement opportunities at Title I schools, we will endeavor to do the following:

- Engage in practices that foster the involvement of families in all Title I schools as follows:
 - Plan and conduct meaningful consultation with parents of participating children
 - Provide to parents of Title children assistance in understanding the state academic standards, state and local academic assessments, parent and family engagement rights of Title I, ways to monitor their child's progress, and strategies on how to work with their child's teachers to improve the academic success of their child.

- Parents will be encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school.
 - Parents are viewed as partners in their child 's education and will be included, as appropriate, in decision-making and invited to join/attend advisory committee opportunities to assist in the education of their child.
- Ensure that the school *Family Engagement Plans (FEPs)* meet the Title I requirements, and include the *School-Parent Compact* that fosters the following:
 - Incorporates the FEP into the Title I Schoolwide Plan and involves parents of children in Title I schools in decisions about how Title I funds are used for the FEP should they wish to participate
 - Provides opportunities for the participation of parents with Limited English Proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, economic disadvantage, minority background, and parents of migratory children to the greatest extent practicable
 - Provides information and required school reports in an understandable and uniform format and, as practicable, in a language that parents understand

DESCRIPTION OF REQUIRED FAMILY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:

St. Cloud Area School District 742 will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its Title I District-wide FEP:

- Review the proposed District FEP with the Learning and Teaching/World’s Best Workforce Advisory Committee for comment and suggestions open to parents.
- Revise the District FEP to reflect the overall comments and suggestions made by parents, community, and other stakeholders as practicable.
- Assure each Title I school has created an individual FEP.

An evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the school’s individual FEP will be conducted to improve the quality of the Title I school. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in family engagement activities with particular attention to parents who may have one or more of the following characteristics: economically disadvantaged, disabled, Limited English Proficiency, limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. Findings of the evaluation regarding its FEP and activities will be used to design strategies for more effective family engagement and to revise its FEP.

St. Cloud Area School District 742 will build the capacity of school staff and parents to create strong family engagement programs, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement by the following:

- Review and explain the school’s Title I schoolwide plan to parents at the school sites’ annual Title I meetings.
- Post the Schoolwide Plans and Compacts on the schools’ websites.
- Collaborate with the Title I schools to provide materials, supplies, and training to help parents work with their child to improve their child 's academic achievement. This could include, but not be limited to, literacy training, math and science strategies, and using technology to foster parental involvement.
- Educate teachers, non-teaching staff, principals, and other school staff in how to reach out to, communicate, and collaborate with parents and families as partners.
- Provide information related to the school and FEP, meetings, and other activities sent to the parents of participating children is in an understandable format, and, to the extent practicable,

in a language the parents can understand.

- Ensure that Title I school and district funds are available to provide transportation and childcare for parent-teacher conferences, school meetings, and required events.
- Assure a minimum of 1% of the Title I, Part A, allocation is reserved for parental-familial involvement and that 90% of the 1% reserved is distributed for use directly by Title I schools.

St. Cloud Area School District 742 will integrate family engagement strategies in Title I, to the extent possible, with family engagement strategies under other programs.

It is our continued belief that the partnership between district, schools, parents-families, and ultimately community is of great value to our students' educational progress.