

St. Cloud Area School District 742 Title I Family Engagement Plan

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:

The Title One Family Engagement Plan 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 program that provides funding for students with additional support in meeting grade-level expectations. St. Cloud Area School District 742 Title I schools include Discovery 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 in our schools that may not be included in this plan as well. For the purposes of this document, the abbreviation, FEP, will be used to refer to the Family Engagement Plan.

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 St. Cloud Area School District 742 Title I Schools to plan and implement practices that involve families in their children's academic achievement. In order to implement such family engagement opportunities at Title I schools, we will engage in the following:

- Put into operation practices for the involvement of families in all Title I schools that are as follows:
 - Planned and conducted in meaningful consultation with parents of participating children
 - Provide to parents of Title children assistance in understanding the state academic standards, the state and local academic assessments, the parent and family engagement rights of Title I, ways to monitor their child's progress, and how to work with their child's teachers to improve the academic success of their child.
 - Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.
 - Parents are viewed as partners in their child 's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.

- Ensure that the school Family Engagement Plans (FEP) 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
 - Provides opportunities for the participation of parents with Limited English Proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children to the greatest extent practicable
 - Provides information and required school reports in an understandable 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 or World’s Best Workforce Advisory Committee for comment and suggestions.
- Revise the District FEP to reflect the overall comments and suggestions made by parents 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 are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have Limited English Proficiency, have 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:

- Reviewing and explaining the school’s Title I schoolwide plan to parents at the school site’s annual Title I meeting, and post the schoolwide plan on the school’s website.
- Working in collaboration with the Title I schools to provide materials and training to help parents work with their child to improve their child 's academic achievement.
- Educating its teachers, non-teaching staff, principals, and other school staff in how to reach out to, communicate, and collaborate with parents as partners.
- Providing 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.
- Ensuring that Title I school and district funds are available to provide transportation and childcare for parent-teacher conferences, school meetings, and required events.

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.