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St. Cloud Area School District Awarded \$2.5 Million Full-Service Community Schools Grant

St. Cloud Area School District has been awarded a five-year \$2.5 million Full-Service Community Schools grant from the U.S. Department of Education, one of 30 nationwide awards and the only award granted in Minnesota.

“We are thrilled and hopeful for the ways we will be able to positively impact student outcomes with the help of our community partners,” says Superintendent Laurie Putnam. “The grant will allow us to launch two Full-Service Community Schools that will be located at Discovery Community School and North Junior High School.”

Research indicates that positive learning environments where students receive key services—including nutritional, dental, vision, and mental health services—are critical for accelerating academic growth. The district is committed to implementing the four pillars of evidence-based community schools that improve achievement and other outcomes for students, and this grant will provide the resources and support needed to create those environments.

Twenty community partners have been named as participants in the grant including Community Organization Partner United Way of Central Minnesota. Year one of the grant is designated for core planning which will begin in January 2024.

View the U.S. Department of Education press release in full [here](#).

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About St. Cloud Area School District 742

The mission of the St. Cloud Area School District is to create a safe and caring climate and culture in which we prepare, engage, educate, empower and inspire all learners in partnership with their community to be successful in today's and tomorrow's society. Our caring and committed staff members deliver learning for a lifetime to a diverse population of students in nine St. Cloud area communities. District 742 is the largest school district in Central Minnesota, proudly sharing the gift of education with over 10,000 students each school day.

Located 70 miles northwest of Minneapolis-St. Paul, we bring the world's ideas into every schoolroom. Our licensed staff, nearly 70 percent of whom have advanced degrees, teach challenging classes that use the latest technology as well as tried-and-true instructional methods. District 742 has eight elementary schools, three middle level schools (6-8), two high schools (9-12), three alternative learning schools, an early childhood center and a community education center. The high schools offer an array of AP courses and other opportunities to prepare students for post-secondary education. Students are encouraged to participate in their choice of athletic, scholarly and fine arts activities.