



MINNEAPOLIS  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Urban Education. Global Citizens.

## Minneapolis Public Schools 2021 - 2022 Family Engagement Plan

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**Vision of MPS:** All students regardless of their background, zip code, and personal needs will receive an anti-racist, holistic education that builds essential knowledge to prepare students for future success.

**Mission of MPS:** Minneapolis Public Schools exists to provide a high quality, anti-racist, culturally responsive education for every Minneapolis student.

**Commitment:** To achieve our vision, we will intentionally focus and prioritize resources and actions to significantly improve the experiences and outcomes of Black students, Indigenous students, students of color, and their families.

**Values:**

- Equity, Representation & Anti-Racism
- Physical and Emotional Safety Wellbeing
- Relationships, Trust & Communication
- Shared Decision-Making & Voice
- Transparency & Accountability
- Evidence-Based Strategies

**2022 Strategic Plan Goals:**

- Goal 1: Academic Achievement
- Goal 2: Student Well-Being
- Goal 3: Effective Staff
- Goal 4: School and District Climate

**Mission of The Office of Communications, Engagement, and External Relations:** The Office of Communications Engagement and External Relations (OCEER) will work with students to engage them in their education, collaborate with parents/families to empower them to be stronger advocates for their children's education and partner with community organizations to help support student success and family involvement.

## ***DISTRICT EXPECTATIONS***

Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) agrees to implement the following requirements:

- Minneapolis Public Schools will design and implement programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of families in its schools with Title I programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be developed and managed with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Minneapolis Public Schools will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level Family Engagement Plans meet the Title I requirements and include, as a component, a school-parent compact.
- Minneapolis Public Schools will incorporate this district-wide Family Engagement Plan into its district plan.
- In carrying out the Title I family-involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, Minneapolis Public Schools district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of families with children who speak languages other than English, families with children with disabilities, and children of migrant families, including providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format; upon request, MPS will provide alternative formats, and to the extent practicable, in a language families understand.
- If the Minneapolis Public Schools district plan for Title I is not satisfactory to the parents and/or guardians of children Participating in MPS schools, the district will submit any family comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the Minnesota Department of Education.
- If applicable, Minneapolis Public Schools will involve the families of children attending Title I schools in decisions about how to use the 1 percent of Title I funds reserved for parental involvement; in addition, the district will ensure that at least 95 percent of the funds reserved for parental involvement go directly to schools.

**For more information contact the Office of Engagement & External Relations:**

612-668-0198 | [engagement@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:engagement@mpls.k12.mn.us)

Minneapolis Public Schools | 1250 West Broadway Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55411

Minneapolis Public Schools  
Family Engagement Plan & Goals

**Goal 1: All families feel welcome at Minneapolis Public Schools and have equitable access to opportunities to be involved in district decisions and events.**

- The Office of Communications, Engagement, & External Relations (OCEER) will support and engage families in the District Parent Advisory Councils (PACs):
  - [Establish a calendar for regular meetings](#)
  - Share current and relevant information with PACs
  - Provide opportunities for PACs to partner with the District and co-create programs and/or initiatives
  - PAC meeting agendas and flyers will be available upon request
- Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) will promote and observe cultural and community-building events throughout the year including but not limited to:
  - African American Family Involvement Night
  - Hmong American Heritage Night
  - Latino Culture and Heritage Night
  - American Indian Family Involvement and Awareness Week
  - Somali Independence Day
  - District Cultural Art Exhibitions
- The Office of Communications, Engagement, & External Relations (OCEER) will use relevant communication channels (as appropriate) to inform all families of how to get involved in the events listed in this plan through:
  - District calendar
  - Social media
  - PAC presentations
  - Community partners presentations/resources
  - Robocalls and emails (in English, Spanish, Hmong and Somali)
  - Video Storytelling
  - Paper notices
  - Listservs
  - Website
  - Culturally specific radio programs
  - Local media partners
- MPS will eliminate participation barriers by planning for and/or providing (as appropriate) the following for family engagement activities/events:
  - Childcare and food
  - Transportation
  - Interpreters or bilingual support
  - Translated documents in the district's four main languages: Hmong, English, Somali and Spanish
  - Consulting with families before scheduling activities
  - Checking calendar of observed holidays before determining the meeting dates, and if possible, offer multiple dates for meetings where key information is distributed
  - Hosting activities at community locations like faith-based institutions and recreation centers
  - Virtual and/or video attendance options
  - Offering technology support to prepare for attendees attending virtual events

- MPS creates inclusive spaces and processes for families to provide feedback about key district-wide decisions and initiatives by:
  - Ensuring information is clearly communicated to families
  - Ensuring district leaders are in attendance at family engagement events
  - Consulting with families about district-wide family engagement plan
  - Plan and implement Parent Participatory Evaluation (PPE) program

***Goal 2: All families are informed of steps the district is taking to improve student outcomes and achieve equity.***

The Office of Communications, Engagement, & External Relations (OCEER) will continue to promote and share steps the district is taking to improve student outcomes to achieve equity through various culturally responsive communication and engagement methods

Effective 2021-2022 school year, all Minneapolis Public Schools are required to complete and publicly display their School Improvement Plan (SIP) and Family Engagement Plan (FEP).

- OCEER and Research, Evaluation, Assessment and Accountability (REAA) will partner to provide support to school sites in the completion and compliance of their plans.
  - Schools are required to collect feedback from families annually in the development and renewal of their SIP and FEP.

Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) will develop/provide academic training for community stakeholders:

- MPS will offer ongoing and responsive training and communications to community stakeholders that includes: information on state academic standards, Title I requirements, graduation requirements, and other academic standards.
- MPS will develop educational tools with information about state-required assessments like MCAs/MTAS and ACCESS, as well as include information for alternate assessments.

OCEER will develop communications for families on how to navigate the MPS system including how to collaborate with their children’s teachers, and tips on helping their child achieve grade-level standards.

OCEER will continue to offer Parent Academy/Connecting Parents to Educational Opportunities Program (CPEO) to Title I schools:

- CPEO is a program that provides families with the necessary tools and skills to develop strong and positive home-school partnerships and support the academic achievement of students.
- This program brings schools, families and the community together as equal partners in education, so that all students can achieve their greatest academic potential.
- Develop and pilot a ‘CPEO-Seminar Model’ where the district shares information about specific topics in response to families’ interests.

**Goal 3: Families will play an important role in developing Minneapolis Public Schools’ Family Engagement Plan and the district’s plan for the use of Title I funds.**

The Office of Communications, Engagement and External Relations (OCEER) Engagement, Education, and Outreach Specialists will seek feedback on the development and renewal of district FEPs annually, through the various Parent Advisory Councils and 1:1 meetings

- MPS staff will seek input from families of Title I students to ensure their voices are represented in the plan, as well as all Title I programs and services provided at MPS.

MPS uses Title I funds for:

- Professional development
- Connecting Parents to Educational Opportunities (CPEO) programming
- Language support
- Staffing
- Family engagement and cultural events
- Supplies
- Parent Advisory Councils
- Communications methods

MPS collects feedback annually from families about the district’s use of funds:

- The finance team shares the upcoming school year budget process at district Parent Advisory Councils.
- Site councils at Title I schools review the schools budget.

Schools receiving Title I funding are required to align their budgets with their School Improvement Plans (SIPs):

- Each school completes the “Equity Considerations for Budgeting Process” annually when developing their budget.

**Goal 4: Minneapolis Public Schools central office staff will support Title I schools as they work to implement their own family-engagement strategies.**

The Office of Communications, Engagement & External Relationship (OCEER) provides monthly professional development for all school-based family/community liaisons or assigned staff on the following topics:

- Information on Title I documentation, implementation, and requirements
- Family engagement strategies best practices
- Strategies to support capacity-building/information-sharing with families at the school-site level
- Cultural humility
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL), equity, and other district priority focus areas
- Information on how to write and disseminate effective family-engagement plans (FEPs)

OCEER will continue conducting training, consultation, and facilitation to school site staff on how to work with and engage families members.

OCEER will continue to engage and provide capacity-building support to Title I school site administrators and family liaisons.

***Goal 5: Minneapolis Public Schools will provide opportunities for central staff to attend professional development on effective strategies for family engagement and parent involvement as equal partners.***

Appropriate staff from the Office of Communications, Engagement and External Relations (OCEER) will regularly attend professional development training and share with school-based family liaisons.

Appropriate staff from OCEER will be given the opportunity to participate in professional development opportunities to learn best practices for enhancing family engagement, effectively engaging families, and providing appropriate communication platforms.

OCEER will expand the use of cultural humility, dual-capacity framework, and customer service through training and coaching school staff.

MPS staff from the Office of Communications, Engagement, & External Relations (OCEER) will pursue training on Title I parent-engagement requirements and how to support schools in creating FEPs.

***Goal 6: Minneapolis Public Schools will conduct annual assessments on the effectiveness of the activities laid out in its Family Engagement Plan.***

In partnership with Research, Evaluation, Assessment and Accountability (REAA), the Office of Communications, Engagement and External Relations (OCEER) will work together in conducting an evaluation of the district's Family Engagement Plan and family engagement activities.

- The results of this evaluation will inform the decisions around changes to the district Family Engagement Plan as well as determine which evidence-based family engagement activities to implement during the following school year.

REAA and OCEER will assess the effectiveness of the Family Engagement Plan at the end of the school year by engaging families who are active in Site Councils, District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC), and Cultural Parent Advisory Committees (PACs).

OCEER will ask all participants of the Parent Academy (CPEO) to provide feedback on the effectiveness of the program.

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