



*Spirit Lake Elementary's
Parent and Family Engagement Plan, 2020-21*

Information about our programs

Spirit Lake Elementary receives Federal Title I Schoolwide funding, which is used to provide assistance and/or interventions to *all* students who can benefit from additional reading and/or math support.

Spirit Lake Elementary determines the needs of all students in the fall, and throughout the school year, using state assessments, teacher referrals, and district curriculum benchmark assessments. Our school provides a differentiated, multi-tiered approach to instruction to meet the needs of all levels of learners. Our Title I program provides support for identified students through pull-out, inclusion, and/or one-on-one assistance, in addition to instruction received in the regular classroom. Pull-out students may receive added instruction in the Title I classroom. Inclusion students may receive added assistance in the regular classroom. Other students may benefit from the opportunity of working one-on-one with Title I staff members to support academic gains. Parents of students needing interventions to meet grade level expectations are notified about any changes and/or additions to their child's instruction.

Spirit Lake Elementary holds a Parent Advisory meeting twice a year. During our Fall meeting, the goal is to gain feedback on involving parents in our school. Together the PTO and Parent Advisory Committee and staff members plan family and community involvement activities, review student achievement data, and provide feedback about school policies, etc. For the Spring Parent Advisory meeting, information from the community involvement event is shared, year-end student data is reviewed, and feedback is asked of committee members about Title parent contact ideas, Family and Community Events (how to help enhance the events for the following school year), and review of school policies, etc.

SLE has a Meet the Teacher night in August. We also hold a STEAM Night event for our annual Parent and Community involvement. For the 2020-21, school year, the STEAM event was held outdoors as a drive-through, with science kits and pizzas handed out to families through car windows. For the 2021-22 school year, the Parent Advisory Committee voted to host the event in the gym. The event format will follow past events in which numerous organizations take part, providing families with information and resources and will include some hands-on science stations. Past participants have been: Jim Elkins from the U. of I. Water Steward Program, The Spirit Lake Library, STCU, and United Way. As families depart the event, they will be given a

take-and-make project kit to complete at home. Other SLE parent involvement events include: Kindergarten 1st day-campus orientation, Spirit Lake Fire Dept & SLE Food Drive in December, 1st grade-Mothers' Day Tea, Dads and Donuts in June and Family Reading Time throughout the school year. Our Spirit Lake Police Department also hosts a Bicycle Safety and Equipment Repair Rodeo in the spring.

In addition, SLE families are invited to participate in our district's Lakeland Literacy Project which works to increase literacy skills for the adults in our community in order to promote self-efficacy and foster the achievement and success of our students. The Project also offers Digital Literacy courses for adults and opportunities for parents to learn how to read with their children. A reading program is offered for preschool aged children within the school district as well.

Frequent reports to parents on their child's progress

Opportunities for explanation of their child's curriculum, student progress measures, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet within the classroom and on state assessments are provided to parents. They are given information about their child's progress during parent teacher conferences, student-led conferences and during other informal conferences throughout the school year. In addition to quarterly report cards, parents are given reports showing how their child has performed on state assessments. The process for accessing grades online is clearly explained to parents.

Shared responsibilities for high student academic achievement

SLE keeps at the forefront the responsibility we have to partner with our families to help ensure the most success for each of our students. All staff in our Schoolwide Title I school are expected to engage parents and make them feel welcome in our school community. All ideas for involving our parents are encouraged and explored. We welcome parent and grandparent volunteers in our school and provide "Volunteer Trainings" at least twice a year.

Materials and trainings to help parents work with their child

SLE provides materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement and growth during the school year. Staff demonstrate a willingness to work with parents to partner in their child's education. Classroom teachers explain ways in which parents can support learning in the home through classroom newsletters and through conferencing. Parent resources are shared in monthly school newsletters, posted on our school website and on Class Dojo-School Story to encourage the development of parent/child work at home. Use of technology at home to enhance learning and help with homework expectations is encouraged and supported.

Importance of communication between teachers and parents

The school ensures that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents in a timely manner, and in a format and language parents can understand, and, if needed, provided in reasonable, alternative formats as requested. Many teachers at SLE include daily communication strategies for parents who request it or for students who benefit from this kind of involvement. Our kindergarten teachers are strong, first partners to our families. Beyond making themselves available at all times, they take their students out to meet parents who pick up their children and are available for conversation daily. Our school purchases vinyl 2-pocket communication folders for teachers to send home daily with students to keep parent/teacher communication organized and strong.