MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Family Engagement Plan (FEP), 2023-24

School Information	
School:	Kenwood Elementary
Principal:	Heidi Johnson
Family Liaison:	Keri Mabry
Family Liaison Phone Number:	612-668-2760
Family Liaison Email Address:	keri.mabry@mpls.k12.mn.us
This plan was developed in partnership with families and approved on:	October 24, 2023
Introduction to the Family Engagement Plan	October 18, 2023

Mission & Vision	
School Mission Statement	In the heart of the Kenwood neighborhood near the School Forest at Cedar Lake, Kenwood Community School provides an inclusive, joyful, and student-centered atmosphere for children to learn and grow. Kenwood's commitment to the arts, academics, rigor, and race equity inspires creativity, collaboration, and a commitment to civic engagement. Relationships with families and community partners are integral to the way that Kenwood students thrive. Arts integration and residencies at every grade are what spark the Kenwood slogan: Smarts + Arts = Kenwood Community School.
School Vision Statement	Smarts + Arts: Through strong academic programming and arts integration, we prepare all students to be life-long learners and contributors to a democratic society.

Family & Community Voice and Engagement	
How family & community voices are gathered at our school	Online surveys, individualized outreach (e.g., emails, phone calls, in-person check-ins), group meetings (e.g., Coffee with the Principal, open houses), conferences, Site Council, PTA meetings, and school-wide events.
The primary challenges/areas of need identified by families and community members at our school	The school population has changed significantly this year to welcome more diverse students and families from numerous countries with various language needs (we have 18 languages spoken at Kenwood!). As a result, there is an increased need for interpretation/translation, immigration support services, housing services, and basic necessities (e.g., food, winter clothing) to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all students and families. In addition, community members have identified the need to make programming and events more accessible to families who do not reside in the neighborhood by providing (and making sure families are aware of) options for transportation, childcare, etc. Many parents are not available for daytime performances or events and could benefit from multiple dates/times, livestream, and/or recorded options. A related challenge is to how to facilitate the participation and inclusion of all students regardless of parents' ability to be involved. Proposed solutions include carpooling, chaperoning, and transportation provided by a classmate's family or parent volunteers.
The primary hopes and aspirations identified by families & community members at our school	To continue being early adopters of evidence-based methods, to recognize and celebrate the diversity of our student population, to celebrate the commitment of Kenwood's innovative staff, to help all students and families feel welcome and have meaningful access to participate in and contribute to shaping programs, policies, and events, to support students in being courageous and engaging in safe "risk-taking" while at school.

Family Engagement Strategies	
FEP Strategy Name	***All families feel welcome in our school and have equal access to opportunities to be involved in their students' education***
We will host the following community-building and cultural events this year:	Ice Cream Social/Open House (8/31), Circle of Peace (9/21), Kenwood Crawl (9/30), Bike Roll & Walk to School Day (10/4), Fall Festival including Roots Dance Residency performance (10/12), Swedish educator exchange (10/21-10/28), African Drumming Residency with Brother Ghana (Fall 2023 & Spring 2024), Native American Art in the Present Tense art residency (November 2023), Coffee with the Principal (monthly), American Indian Affinity Group (biweekly meetings, ongoing), Black Affinity Group (biweekly meetings beginning Winter 2023), Art Adventure in partnership with Mia (Spring 2024), Black Brilliance Month celebration (February 2024), Read-a-thon (2/5-2/16), Lunar New Year Lion Dance (2/9), K-1 Music Concert (2/15), 2-3 Music Concert (3/7), 5th Grade Widji Trip (3/19-3/22), Plant Sale (May 2024), Spring Picnic (5/16), Track and Field Day (5/29), K music performance (6/11), 5th Grade Completion Ceremony (6/13)
We will notify families of how to get involved in the events listed on our FEP, how to access school staff, and how to volunteer through:	Updates to website and calendar, updates to social media accounts, weekly newsletters that go out each Friday ("The Kenwood Courier") which can be translated into any language, letters mailed home in multiple languages, flyers sent home with students in multiple languages, posters and bulletin boards throughout the building, information sheets and flyers available in the main office in multiple languages, Talking Points, School Messenger, tabling at events, individualized outreach via phone calls, emails, and in-person check-ins about relevant resources and opportunities.
We will ensure all families can participate by providing the following:	Transportation to and from events as needed, meals or snacks provided, interpreters at meetings, translated documents, childcare as needed, multiple meeting dates and times to accommodate various schedules and parents with more than one child at the school, individual needs assessments to identify and address barriers to participation (e.g., assistance with enrollment in Every Meal, Family Resource Center referrals, referrals to School Social Worker).
FEP Strategy Name	***All families are informed of the steps our school is taking to improve student outcomes and achieve equity***

(Title I Schools) We will host our annual State of the School (Title I) meeting on:	10/18/23 at 9 AM (1st Session) and 5 PM (2nd Session)
We will inform families of the steps our school is taking to improve student outcomes and achieve equity through:	A presentation by Principal Johnson on the State of the School, including an overview of the current state of our school and our plan for the school year, information about Title I, and parent/caregiver rights, with accompanying slides and Q&A. We will post a family friendly version of the SIP and FEP on the website (and if applicable, send home notification to families if our school has been designated for support and improvement by the state).
FEP Strategy Name	***Families will play an important role in developing our School Improvement and Family Engagement plans, and will provide valued input on how we spend our resources.***
We will get family input on our School Improvement Plan for next year in:	February 2024
We will get family input on our Family Engagement Plan for next year in:	February 2024
We will get family input on how we'll use our resources next year to support student achievement and engage families in:	February 2024
We will host regular Site Council meetings on:	The fourth Tuesday of each month.
FEP Strategy Name	***All school staff members, family members, and students understand the important role they each play in making sure students achieve success at our school.***
(Title I Schools) We will get family input on our School-Family Compact for next year in:	February 2024
(Title I Schools) We will share our School-Family Compact with families by:	Sharing it on the website, in the school handbook, in new student folders, at parent-teacher conferences.
FEP Strategy Name	***All families understand how to support their students' academic achievement.***
At the following events, we will help families understand our school curriculum, state standards, assessments their students take, and how we measure student achievement and success:	State of the School/Title I Event (10/18, February 2024); Coffee with the Principal (9/29, 10/27, monthly ongoing); Site Council (9/26, 10/24, 11/28, 1/23, 2/27, 3/26, 4/23, 5/28); Conferences (10/18, February 2024)
In addition to the events above, we will also help families understand our school curriculum, state standards, assessments their students will take, and how we will measure student achievement and success in the following ways:	Communication in the weekly newsletter; updates and documents shared on the website; flyers mailed home and sent home with students; individualized outreach via phone calls, emails, and in-person meetings as needed.
We will host the following academically-focused family events:	Conferences (10/18), Curriculum Night (11/2), Conferences (2/20 and 2/21)
FEP Strategy Name	***All staff will be trained on how to effectively partner with families.***
We will provide professional development on family engagement to our staff on the following topics this year:	Racial Growth Mindset, working in partnership with parents and families.