



Farnsworth Aerospace 5 – 8 Campus  
2024-2025 Family Engagement Plan

Farnsworth Aerospace is the “Home of Future Leaders” where all staff are involved in ensuring multiple opportunities for each student to experience academic growth in Reading and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Aerospace and Math).

The Family Engagement Plan (FEP) is organized into four impact areas. We will be working together this year to build positive and goal-oriented relationships in each area. Families and staff at school developed this plan together.

Welcoming Environment	
Our school has staff member(s) available for families to discuss this plan and ask questions.	Family Liaison - Intervention Specialist: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rebekah Hausman</li> </ul>
Our school communicates with families in many ways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monthly newsletter from classroom teacher</li> <li>● Monthly school newsletter</li> <li>● Parent portal</li> <li>● Emails</li> <li>● Phone calls</li> <li>● Automated Texts</li> <li>● Automated calls</li> <li>● School website</li> <li>● Farnsworth School Organization</li> <li>● Letters available upon request</li> <li>● Home Visits Project</li> </ul> <p>Customer Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Farnsworth Aerospace will respond to families when they call, email or send a note within 24 hours.</li> </ul>

The achievement gap, or “opportunity gap” between students of color and white students in Saint Paul Public Schools is unacceptable. Our school is working to change practices and systems by identifying the barriers that make it harder for students of color to succeed and for their families to support their learning.

We recognize there is an achievement gap and have begun the process of identifying specific barriers that may be contributing to this gap. Our School Leadership Team uses our School Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP) as a guiding document to analyze our students’ assessment data and grades. Each month, our Leadership Team critically views our students’ performance on assessments such as the MCAs and FAST and they look at students’ quarterly grade performance.

Our team reflects on and addresses why our students of color are not meeting proficiency standards. Currently, our achievement gap is most pronounced between our Caucasian and African American students. Our school is looking through an equity lens on how we can implement best practices to meet the learning needs of all our students.

We will be working to infuse culturally relevant teaching practices, while examining the realness, relevance, and rigor of our teaching practices. Our staff will also work to develop relationships with our students and families.

For more information on about our work on racial equity, contact:

Jamell Tidwell (Principal)  
Michael Sodomka (Assistant Principal)  
Phillip Hutcheson (Assistant Principal)

Transitions between schools can be challenging. We work to help families as their children start and leave our school.

For new students and families, we support the transition by offering:

- Fall Open House
- Spring Open House
- District Parent Workshops (Parent Academy)
- Information about district workshops

For students and families moving to the next school in their pathway, we support the transition by:

- Step-Up Day for 4<sup>th</sup> graders. 4<sup>th</sup> graders go to Farnsworth 5-8 Campus and get to experience being a 5<sup>th</sup> grader.
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade new student registration night. Students and parents meet the teachers and receive a tour through the building.
- Where Everyone Belongs (W.E.B.) provides an orientation, mentorship and a smooth transition. Activities are led by students and teachers to help create a safe environment where everyone will feel like they have ownership in the school.
- Tours - parents are able to set up tours and learn about all the exciting programs and activities that Farnsworth Aerospace has to offer.
- Partnerships with TRIO and AVID at the Farnsworth Aerospace 5-8 Campus provides opportunities for students to experience visiting a college/university, learn skills/strategies for academic success, and help students make the connection between school and work.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Tours to Johnson High School

## Family Partnerships

<p>Our school-parent compact establishes the shared responsibility for student success between the school, families, and students. Families and teachers work together to develop the compact.</p>	<p>Copies of the compact are available through the following venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Farnsworth School Website</li> <li>● Open House Night</li> <li>● Fall and Spring Conferences</li> <li>● Main office of Farnsworth</li> <li>● Title I Night</li> </ul> <p>The compact will be updated: April, 2025</p>
<p>There are many opportunities for families to build connections to the school and to each other.</p>	<p>Title I Annual Meeting will share information about school programs in the fall of 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monthly Farnsworth School Organization (FSO) Meeting</li> <li>● Engineering Family Night</li> <li>● Hmong New Year</li> <li>● History Day</li> <li>● Aerospace Family Events</li> <li>● National African American Parent Involvement Day</li> <li>● Parent Teacher Home Visit Project</li> </ul>
<p>We work to make school meetings and events available for every family in the school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● When sending out information, we create flyers and use automated calls that are translated into different languages.</li> <li>● During conferences, we have night and day meetings for families. For family events, we communicate with our parents if childcare, food and transportation will be available depending on the event that is scheduled.</li> <li>● One strategy that we will use during our large family events is having translators available to translate and provide the information from the event.</li> <li>● Staff calling parents and inviting them to different family events will get students interested in the family event that is approaching.</li> <li>● Interpreting Services (Hmong, Spanish, Karen, Somali) are available, please contact Family Liaison 1 week in advance.</li> </ul>

Our school supports families as advocates and provides opportunities for parent leadership.

- The process for parents to voice concerns about their child's learning is to contact their child's teacher. If there are further concerns, the parent should contact the principal. If the concern is not addressed, then a meeting with both the principal and teacher would be the next step.
- Staff will receive professional development around the interpretation of ACCESS scores for ELL students and will use this information to best meet the needs of individual students. This information will be shared with parents at conferences as teachers explain specific strategies that will help each ELL child develop their English language acquisition.
- Staff will continue to evaluate homework options that are expected to have a high learning impact. The Family Compact will be shared with staff so they are able to meet the documented expectations.
- Staff will participate in professional development around conferencing with families to reinforce the home-school connection.
- Families can get involved in planning for school improvement and family engagement by: Attending Parent Academy, FSO meetings on the second Monday of every month and School Climate Improvement Team meetings on the third Monday of every month, and by completing surveys. Families can also participate in creating and updating next year's Compact and Family Engagement Plan during the month of April. These will be distributed at the beginning of the school year and during conferences.

## Teaching and Learning

<p><b>Our school shares information about student achievement with families in multiple ways</b></p>	<p>Report cards and progress reports will be distributed through the following venues and at these school sponsored events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Farnsworth 5-8 Campus parents will receive report cards during mid-quarter and end of quarter. In addition, parents are encouraged to check Parent Portal to see how their child is doing in their classes.</li> <li>● Parent-Teacher conferences are held in the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025.</li> </ul> <p>Information on grades 5 to 8 students' ELL proficiency levels are shared with parents through the ACCESS proficiency indicators.</p>
<p>Our school will engage families in Personalized Learning as a key strategy to accelerate student achievement.</p>	<p>Parent Portal is available for students at the 5-8 Campus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Contact our school counselors Maria Evans and Madelyn Cahill for more information</li> </ul>
<p>Many before and after school enrichment and support opportunities are available for students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● TRIO (Federal Outreach Program)</li> <li>● Extended Day Learning (EDL) FLIPSIDE</li> <li>● AVID (Advanced Via Individual Determination)</li> </ul>

**Community Partnerships**

Our school develops community partnerships to provide additional support for students and their families

- First Covenant Church
- 3M
- Parks and Rec (Arlington Rec Center)
- TRIO-ETS
- East Side Thrive
- Wilder Foundation
- Family Values for Life
- FLIPSIDE after school program

This plan is available as part of our school’s SCIP, or School Improvement Plan at [scip.spps.org](http://scip.spps.org), on our school website at [farnsworth.spps.org](http://farnsworth.spps.org), and printed copies are available.