



2024/2025 Title I Family and Parent Engagement Plan

Family engagement is a critical part of every child's education. This is even more true for students who may be struggling academically. District 624 actively promotes the participation and engagement of Title I families. The District 624 Title I Parent Involvement Plan outlines how this is achieved.

Part I. District Expectations

White Bear Lake Area Schools agrees to implement the following requirements [Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)]:

- *Family engagement* means the participation of families in open and trusting communications involving student academic progress and other school activities, with the aim of:
 - Families playing a critical role in assisting their child's learning
 - Encouraging families to be actively involved in their child's education
 - Recognizing families as a full partner in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees.
- Will use the definition of the term "family" which includes a legal guardian or other person standing in place of a parent (such as a grandparent or a person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare).
- Establish programs, activities, and procedures that involve families of Title I funded schools which are planned in consultation with those families.
- Provide families of Title I schools assistance in understanding their family engagement rights of Title I, and to work with their child's teachers to improve the academic success of their child(ren).
- Provide materials and training to help families work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement.
- Work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level Family Engagement Plan meets the Title I requirements, and include a Family-School Compact.
- Strive to offer district and school-level opportunities that actively engage multilingual families, families of children with disabilities, and families of migratory children. This effort includes presenting information and school reports mandated by Section 1111 of ESSA in a clear and consistent format, with alternative formats available upon request, and whenever feasible, in a language families can understand.



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Part II. Description of How the District Will Implement Required Components

White Bear Lake Area Schools will engage families who have Title I students in developing/revising the district plan.

- This will be accomplished at the building level through each principals newsletter and at their annual Title I meeting. Feedback will be used to help drive the planning and program initiative for the current school year as well as the following year.

White Bear Lake Area Schools will provide families of children served by Title I funding, an understanding of essential topics such as the state's academic content and achievement standards, state and local academic assessment (including alternate assessment) Title I requirements, methods for monitoring their child's progress and strategies for effective collaboration with educators.

- This will be accomplished by discussing the Title I Family School Compact at Family-Teacher Conferences which are held in September/October and February. Conversations should include the students needs, student progress, and how the school and home are working together to ensure MN State Standards are being met.
- This will be accomplished by ensuring the family handbook is made available to all families, in all White Bear Lake Area Schools, annually. This should include the Parents Right to Know Letter.
- This will be accomplished by each Title I funded school hosting an annual meeting in the Fall where families learn specifically what Title I involves, how Title I funds are generated, and how they can contribute to the process of deciding how funds will be used.

White Bear Lake Area Schools will commit to engaging family members of students attending Title I schools in the decision-making process regarding the allocation of Title I funds designated for family engagement initiatives. Schools receiving Title I funding will collaborate with families to develop an Equitable Family Engagement Plan encompassing the 7 WBLAS Family Engagement Goal areas. These endeavors will be aligned with school improvement plans and employ best practice strategies.



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The 7 WBLAS Family Engagement Goal Areas are as follows:

1. Relationship and Trust Building Between Families, Students, & WBL Staff is Prioritized
2. Families Exercise their Own Capacity to Advocate for Their Children in School
3. Staff Navigate Discomfort to Reflect upon their Perspective, Biases, and Assumptions to be more Culturally Responsive.
4. All Information supporting Student Growth and Success is shared consistently between schools and families.
5. Families and Staff engage in ongoing, meaningful two-way Conversations.
6. Collaborative Partnerships are created between Home & School.
7. Clear Expectations for school/family events exist, as well as resources for reaching those expectations equitably, and all school/family events are equitable.

White Bear Lake Area Schools will coordinate technical assistance and other support that is necessary to build the capacity of staff in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement, sense of community and overall school performance.

- This will be accomplished by the WBLAS Student, Family, & Community Engagement Coordinator partnering with sites to provide specific support in the creations of their Equitable Family Engagement Plans /Title I Equitable Family Engagement Plans, which will address each of the Seven WBLAS Equitable Family Engagement Goal areas as well as specific Title I information.
- This will be accomplished by ensuring the Educational Equity Specialists, employed through the district, are available to support the enhancement of communication, engagement, and consultation with families whose primary language is not English and offer support to all BIPOC (Black, Indigenous People of Color) families.
- This will be accomplished by the district paying for interpreters to enhance effective communication during parent teacher conferences, meetings with families, and family events.
- This will be accomplished by ensuring all staff members are trained on how to locate and effectively utilize the WBLAS Interpretation and Translations Resources such as the Language Line and Talking Points to communicate with non-English speaking families.
- This will be accomplished by the district partnering with principals to schedule parent-teacher conferences so that enough interpreters and Equity Specialists are at the school sites.
- This will be accomplished by school sites providing transportation to families who need such services to allow them to participate in school activities and events.



White Bear Lake Area Public Schools
Independent School District 624

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