

District and School Parent and Family Engagement

Northfield Public Schools Parent and Family Engagement Plan; 2021-2022

Northfield Public Schools will prepare every student for lifelong success within a world-class learning environment with a commitment to community partnerships and sustainability (Our vision statement).

We deliver educational excellence that empowers all learners to engage in our dynamic world (Our mission statement).

We want to establish partnerships with parents and with the community. Everyone gains if school and home work together to support high achievement of our children. Parents and families play an extremely important role as children's first teachers. Their support for their children and for the school is critical to their children's success at every step along the way. Northfield Public Schools has two schools eligible for Title 1 funds: Greenvale Park Elementary and Bridgewater Elementary.

Part I. District Expectations

Northfield Public Schools agrees to implement the following requirements:

1. The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
2. Consistent with section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1116(d) of the ESSA.
3. In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
4. The school district will incorporate this district wide parent and family engagement plan into its district plan developed under section 1112 of the ESSA.
5. If the district plan for Title I, Part A found in the State Educational Record View and Submission (SERVS), developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the Minnesota Department of Education.

6. The school district with a Title I, Part A allocation of over \$500,000, will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
7. The school district will be governed by the following definition of the term “parent” includes legal guardian or other person standing in place of a parent (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child’s welfare).
8. Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:
 - a. that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
 - b. that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;
 - c. that parents are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;
 - d. that other activities are carried out, such as those described in section 1116 of the ESEA.

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

1. Northfield Public Schools will engage parents and families who have Title I students in developing/revising the district and school policy.
Two parent meetings will be held each year: Ideally one in the fall and one in the spring to receive parental input on the Title 1 plan and its implementation. The fall meetings would be held in September- October and the spring meetings in March-April. These meetings may be combined with PTO or Booster Club meetings for the convenience of the parents.
2. Northfield Public Schools will take the following actions to engage the parents and families in jointly developing the district Title I plan (section 1112) which is in the SERVS application and the development and review of the School wide or Title I Targeted Assistance Plan. If applicable the Comprehensive Support and Improvement and the Targeted Support and Improvement plan, in the schools’ identified for improvement plans. [Section 1111(D) (1)(2)]
Greenvale Park Elementary and Bridgewater Elementary are not identified for improvement.
3. Northfield Public 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 and school performance. This could include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders and philanthropic organizations or individuals with this experience in effectively engaging families in education.
Northfield Public Schools cooperates with Northfield Promise and the Community School to provide support for students and their families. Every Tuesday and Thursday evenings, Greenvale Park Elementary hosts community school night and activities.

4. Northfield Public Schools will coordinate and integrate with federal, state and local programs, including public preschool programs, to implement effective parent and family engagement strategies that improve student achievement and school performance. We believe a good strong beginning will help students throughout their school careers.
5. Northfield Public Schools will take the following actions to conduct, with the engagement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy (programs/activities) in improving the academic achievement of Title I students and the schools.

Reviewing and evaluating the parent and family engagement activities/programs:

- a. Identify barriers and the needs of parents and family members that keep them from participating in their child's education, especially the economically disadvantaged, disabled, limited English proficiency or any racial or ethnic minority.
- b. Identify the needs of the Title I parents and family members to assist the learning of their children and the teachers and school staff.
- c. Identify strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

The evaluation will be conducted through annual parent surveys and allowed face-to-face meetings. The parents will do most of the talking to provide input on what is working well (keep doing it) and what can be improved (make necessary changes).

6. Northfield Public Schools will use the findings of the evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement as necessary and to revise the parent and family engagement policy as necessary.
As a result of the 2018 Fall Meeting, more communication (on a quarterly basis) occurs with parent updates. During the pandemic weekly updates are provided.
7. Northfield Public Schools will involve parents in activities at Greenvale Park Elementary and Bridgewater Elementary schools. The Title 1 parent and family meetings will occur at Greenvale Park and Bridgewater when convenient for the participating parents. Childcare and snacks will be provided on Tuesday and Thursday evenings as part of the Community School located at Greenvale Park. Bridgewater Elementary will coordinate with PTO and Booster Club meetings.
8. Northfield Public Schools will convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, when the parents of participating children are available to attend. The Title I annual meeting will inform parents about the Title I program, explain the requirements of parent and family engagement and the rights and responsibilities of the parents to be involved.
Greenvale Park Elementary School on a Tuesday or Thursday evening in September or October-as part of Family Night Dinners at Community School.
Bridgewater Elementary will coordinate with PTO events.

9. Northfield Public Schools will offer flexible meeting times during morning, evening or weekends and may provide transportation, child care or home visits.
10. Northfield Public Schools will involve parents in the planning and review of the school improvement plan and the joint development of the school wide plan when applicable. If the school wide plan is not satisfactory to the parents, submit comments on the plan when submitted to the district. [Section 1114(b)]
Greenvale Park Elementary and Bridgewater Elementary have site councils that include parents. The site council and principal prepare the local School Improvement Plan.
Greenvale Park Elementary and Bridgewater are not school wide programs.
11. Northfield Public Schools will provide assistance to parents of Title students:
 - a. Timely information about programs offered to engage in their child's education.
 - b. An explanation of the curriculum, state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments, and the achievement levels of the state academic standards.
 - c. If they request, opportunities for regular meetings to hear their suggestions and participate in decisions related to their child's education.
 - a. Information is provided to parents at Ready, Set, Go! Day (Last Wednesday in August) by the classroom teachers.
 - b. The Northfield Public Schools website contains the assessment information and calendar.
 - c. Parents can request a conference or meeting at any time with the classroom teacher, the Title 1 teacher, the principal, or the Director of Special Services and/or the Director of Teaching and Learning.

Part III. Description of the Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement

Northfield Public Schools will jointly develop with Title I parents a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement to meet the state academic standards. The compact should:

1. Describe the curriculum and instruction that help their student meet the state standards, identify where their child is performing and discuss ways the parent can support their child's education at home and at school.
2. Talk about the importance of the teachers and parents communicating on an ongoing basis at a minimum:
 - a. Conduct a parent-teacher conference in elementary schools, at least annually, during which time the compact is discussed as it relates to the individual child.
Three conferences times/year: Before school begins, fall, and spring
 - b. Provide frequent reports to parents on their children's progress. Quarterly and upon parental or teacher request
 - c. Provide information on how parents can contact staff and staff can best contact parents, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities. This information is listed on the website.

- d. Make sure that two-way meaningful communication between family members and school staff is addressed and when at all possible, is in a language the parents and family members can understand. Spanish and sign language interpreters are available locally. The Language Line is available for other languages.

Part IV. Accessibility

Northfield Public Schools will meet the requirements of parent and family engagement of Title I, to the extent practicable, we will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents can understand.

Northfield Public Schools will provide interpreters, use the Language Line and Talking Points to have effective communication with parents.

Part V. Adoption

The Northfield Public Schools Parent and Family Engagement Plan has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I programs, as evidenced by meeting minutes and sign-in sheets.

On September 7, 2021 the Northfield Public Schools Parent and Family Engagement Plan will be in effect for the period of the school year.

Part VI. Activities and Plans

Family Activities at Greenvale Park Elementary and Bridgewater Elementary (2021-22 school year) will be in person at this time. Adjustments may be made based on District Safety Protocols as we navigate the pandemic. Conferences and in person meetings may be impacted by changing guidelines and regulations and may take place on Zoom as an option.