



Our Language Access Plan

Policy Statement & Mandate

In accordance with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Minnesota Department of Education's (MDE) recognizes that timely and effective language assistance is essential to ensuring equitable access, inclusion, and justice. Without accessible language support, individuals who communicate in languages other than English may be excluded from important opportunities to engage.



Civil Rights Compliance

Rooted in Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Minnesota Department of Education standards.



Equitable Access

Providing timely and effective language assistance essential to fostering inclusion and equal protection.



Full Community Engagement

Removing communication barriers so all families can actively participate in key district opportunities.

Superintendent Goals: Family and community partnership

1. Core Mandate & Alignment

"Every family, in every language, can access and navigate the district"

Directly aligns with the Language Access Plan's core mandate of removing communication barriers and providing timely, effective language assistance for full community engagement.

2. Departmental Oversight

Communications & Equity Services

Falls under the oversight of Communications & Equity Services, responsible for managing multilingual staff, equity advocates, and district communication platforms for language access.

54

Different Languages Spoken

According to our Multilingual Learning PK–12 Education Program, students in our District's schools speak 54 different languages.

When Is Language Access Required?

Provide language access when communication is essential to meaningful family understanding and participation.

1. Student Health, Safety & Well-Being

Information affecting student health, safety, education, or well-being.

2. Family Action & Consent

Communications requiring family action, consent, signatures, or responses.

3. Essential District Operations

Enrollment, transportation, attendance, special education, and district policies.

4. Time-Sensitive & Legal Notices

Legal notices, urgent communications, and broad districtwide announcements.

KEY TAKEAWAY

If a communication affects a family's ability to understand, respond, or participate meaningfully, assess the need for translated information and qualified interpretation in accordance with applicable requirements.

Tools and Resources to Provide Language Access

1. TransAct Parent Notices

A platform providing translated written forms and notices required by ESSA in multiple languages, including Spanish, Arabic, Hmong, Russian, Somali, Vietnamese, and Karen.

2. Multilingual Staff

Qualified interpreters and translators maintained by the Equity Department, available by request for meetings, conferences, IEPs, and formal documents.

3. Remote Interpretation Services

Contracted services, including Lexikeet and MARTTI, used for phone calls, parent/teacher conferences, evaluations, home visits, nursing calls, or rare languages.

4. Communication Platforms

District and classroom platforms are capable of sending multilingual messages, notifications, and newsletters.

Where to Find the Language Access Plan

Families can find the Language Access Plan in the following locations:

1. District Website

The plan is published directly on the St. Cloud Area School District website.

2. School Handbooks

It is included in district handbooks as well as school-wide communications like newsletters and announcements sent by principals.

3. Enrollment Process

A copy is provided to families by Welcome Center staff during enrollment.

4. Staff Communication

Share the plan with staff via Notebook.

5. Informational Meetings

Equity Department staff (Advocates, Specialists, Coordinators) share details during meetings for multilingual families.

6. IEP Process

Special Education staff disseminate the plan before and during the IEP process, as appropriate.

Complete Linguistic Portfolio

2025-26 SY audit verified full deployment and fulfillment records across 9 individual languages across our District.

Spanish

Somali

Vietnamese

Anuak

French

Arabic

Portuguese

Lao / Laotian

Swahili



We Are 742



Questions