

2025-2026 Superintendent Evaluation Public Report District 742 – St. Cloud Area School District

On behalf of the District 742 Board of Education, we share our sincere appreciation and strong support for Superintendent Dr. Laurie Putnam following the completion of the annual evaluation process. Throughout the 2025-2026 school year, Dr. Putnam continued to lead with vision, integrity, and a deep commitment to students, staff, and families across our district.

This year, Dr. Putnam was recognized nationally as one of the National School Public Relations Association's 2025-2026 "Superintendents to Watch," honoring her innovative leadership, communication, and community engagement. This recognition reflects both her impact in District 742 and her growing influence in education leadership nationally.

Under Dr. Putnam's leadership, District 742 continued to build strong momentum throughout the year. Most notably, district enrollment increased, bringing the St. Cloud Area School District back above 10,000 students. This milestone reflects growing confidence in our schools, our staff, and the opportunities available to students and families throughout the district.

Feedback from both the Board of Education and community leaders reflects exceptionally strong support for Dr. Putnam's leadership. She is consistently recognized for her communication, visibility, responsiveness, and ability to build trust across the district and community. Board members describe her as proactive, thoughtful, and highly effective in keeping both students and district priorities at the center of her work.

Community feedback similarly highlights her as a visible, approachable, and trusted leader who brings people together and strengthens relationships across the St. Cloud area. One community leader shared:

"Laurie has become one of the stronger leaders in the area and has elevated the importance and contribution of the district beyond what we have typically seen in St. Cloud or in the rest of the region."

The Board recognizes Dr. Putnam's continued focus on strategic alignment and organizational leadership through the advancement of district-wide Continuous Improvement Plans (CIPs), ensuring schools and departments remain aligned around student achievement, operational excellence, and equitable opportunities for all learners.

As we look ahead, the Board remains excited and optimistic about the future of St. Cloud Area School District under Dr. Putnam's leadership. Her emphasis on relationship-building, transparent communication, and authentic community partnership continues to strengthen trust and confidence across District 742. Together, we remain committed to preparing, engaging, educating, empowering, and inspiring all learners to thrive in today's and tomorrow's world.