

# News Release

## District 742 Local Education Activities Foundation (LEAF) ACTIVITIES FUND Announcement:

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### District 742/LEAF to participate in Follett Challenge for \$60,000

#### **District 742/LEAF Seeking Community's Votes as Part of \$200,000 National Education Contest**

Schools Receiving Most People's Choice Votes Will Win \$8,000 Each

St. Cloud, MN— District 742 and the Local Education & Activities Foundation (LEAF) have entered a \$200,000 national education contest hoping for a chance at one of the 13 prizes that will be awarded to recognize the most unique and inventive K-12 program. In addition to completing an online application for the annual [Follett Challenge](#), District 742 also submitted a short video to promote its program that teaches students the 21st century skills they need to be prepared for life.

Ten of the prizes, valued at \$8,000 each, to be given away are from the People's Choice category and will solely be based on how many votes applicants have received for their videos from the public. Video voting begins January 22, 2018. District 742's video is now posted on the Follett Challenge website ([www.follettchallenge.com](http://www.follettchallenge.com)) at the following link: <http://follettchallenge.com/videos/1034>.

After registering, users can cast one vote per day through January 26, 2018, when voting ends. Not only are the public's votes significant in the video-voting portion of the contest, but they also will play a role in the overall rubric as twenty-percent of each school's final score is based on the number of votes generated for their video.

"We hope our community will support us by viewing our video and voting for our submission," said Sara Martini, PAKRAT Program Coordinator and Media Director at Westwood Elementary. "Participating in the Follett Challenge recognizes our educators for the great job they are doing with the limited resources they have and, should we win, reward them with resources to do more. It also will give our educators here a platform to share their innovation with other schools across the country and throughout the world."

With a total prize value of \$200,000 in products and services from Follett – a global education solutions leader – the overall winner will earn a \$60,000 prize, plus a celebration at the school, while each of the other two Semi-Finalists will earn \$30,000 prizes. The 10 People's Choice awards are worth \$8,000 each in products and services and will be announced

February 28, 2018, along with the Semi-Finalists. This year's Follett Challenge will honor Semi-Finalist winners in four categories: elementary, middle and high school.

The judges will be seeking applications that illustrate critical thinking, communication, creativity and collaboration between students and among teachers and other members of the school staff. Last year's Grand-Prize winner was Chase County Elementary School in Chase County, KS. The 2018 Grand-Prize winner will be announced April 27, 2018.

For more on the Follett Challenge, visit [www.follettchallenge.com](http://www.follettchallenge.com).

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### **About PAKRAT**

Since 2011, LEAF has been supporting the Partners And Kids Reading A-lot Together (PAKRAT) program in our District 742 elementary schools. PAKRAT provides books to all preschool through grade 3 students in District 742. PAKRAT has been funded with LEAF grants as well as generous grants given to LEAF from the Bernick's Foundation (2012), The Morgan Family Foundation (2013) and the Otto Bremer Foundation (2014), as well as an anonymous \$25,000 gift in 2016. As part of the program, students take a book home to read with their parent/partner each evening and then return the book, along with a brief worksheet about the book to their classroom teacher the next day. The program has been a great success, with our survey showing:

Begun in the summer of 2016, the Summer Rotary Club/LEAF/District 742 PAKRAT Roll & Read Program provides a "library on wheels" during the summer months and serves as an extension of the school year PAKRAT program. Check out PAKRAT on the LEAF web page: [www.leaf742.org](http://www.leaf742.org).

### **About Follett's K-12 Business**

Follett is the largest provider of educational materials and technology solutions to PreK-12 libraries, classrooms, learning centers and school districts in the United States, and a major supplier to educational institutions worldwide. Follett distributes books, reference materials, digital resources, ebooks and audiovisual materials, as well as pre-owned textbooks. Follett also is one of the leading providers of integrated educational technology for the management of physical and digital assets, the tracking, storing and analyzing of academic data, and digital learning environment tools for the classroom focusing on student achievement. For more, visit [www.follettlearning.com](http://www.follettlearning.com).

### **About Follett Corporation**

For more than 140 years, Follett has been a trusted partner to pre-K and K-12 schools, districts, and college campuses, taking care of the critical details that make it easier for schools to run, teachers to teach and students to learn. Every day, Follett serves over half of the students in the United States, and works with 70,000 schools as a leading provider of education technology and services, and print and digital content. Follett is higher education's largest campus retailer and a hub for school spirit and community, operating more than 1,200 local campus stores and 1,600 virtual stores across the continent. Headquartered in Westchester, Illinois, Follett is a \$2.7 billion privately held company. For more, visit [www.follett.com](http://www.follett.com)