

Parent Excursions to Colleges

Elkhart Elementary School

Aurora, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

At Elkhart Elementary School in Aurora, parents expressed a desire to know more about post-secondary options available for their children. This led to school staff planning and implementing Parent Excursions to Colleges for parents of fifth grade students. The goal of these excursions is to help families in the school community to better understand how to prepare their child for college and what other types of postsecondary options there are. Staff hoped that Parent Excursions to Colleges would encourage families to share what was learned with their children.

Those involved in the planning and implementing of the practice included the school principal; a lead teacher; The Learning Source, a family literacy program; APS Post-Secondary and Workforce Readiness Partner; City of Aurora Public Library; and directors from the identified colleges. The Family Liaison at Elkhart Elementary coordinated with the participating families, made sure all documents were in order from the college being visited, gave previews as to what families could expect and where the colleges are located, requested evaluations of the excursions, and provided opportunities for families to discuss the experience and what they learned. Each participating family member completed an evaluation, was able to debrief at a follow-up parent coffee event, and provided suggestions for future field trips.

Parent Excursions to Colleges raised the awareness of families about what post-secondary opportunities are available, what is required for graduation, what the prerequisites are for college applications, and the types of financial aid available. Elkhart Elementary found the excursions to be extremely successful. They shared that Parent Excursions to Colleges opened up conversations among parents, between parents and students, and between parents and the school about what needs to occur to make sure each child has the best secondary opportunity possible.