

Family Liaison Support Program

Denver Public Schools
Denver, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

Having family liaisons is an important way to engage families in schools, and providing continual support for these liaisons is equally as important for sustainability. The goal of Denver Public Schools Family Liaison Support Program is to provide opportunities for educators to increase family partnering at the school level.

In order to do this, workshops, training, and coaching is provided for family liaisons to increase their knowledge of best practices in partnering. By doing this, liaisons can educate, engage, and empower the whole school community to support student success. While liaisons – currently there are 55 – are hired by school principals, the district Office of Family and Community Engagement partners with the schools to provide tools, knowledge, and skills to work with families. Additionally, a Professional Learning Group exists that many liaisons attend, which allows for networking, collaboration, and small group work.

Providing support to these liaisons is critical in regards to using partnering to support student outcomes. The liaisons have been invaluable in increasing family partnerships, which in turn can increase student achievement and improve attendance. Parents have become active partners who are able to leverage resources, attend trainings and district activities, and be joint decisions makers.

To assess the success of the support program, the district both tracks attendance at each event and administers short surveys to the liaisons at the conclusion. Overall, the liaisons have expressed satisfaction with the information and support that they are receiving. Even more importantly, liaisons have stated that they feel excited about creating connections with the other liaisons. These connections allow them to share their experiences, learn new information and skills, which can help them to increase and strengthen parent partnerships in their school communities.