

Superintendent Parent Forums

Denver Public Schools

Denver, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

While much of the interaction that families have with schools is often through teachers, it is important for relationships to be built between families and administrators, as well. One way that this is done in Denver Public Schools is through the 6-7 Superintendent Parent Forums that are held each school year. These forums are meant to engage families and share important information about district initiatives, and discuss how families can be a part of and support these initiatives.

At the beginning of the year, the Superintendent reaches out to all school leaders in the district to select parent representatives from their school that will attend the forums throughout the school year. Parent representatives attend the forums and then bring back information to other families. In Denver Public Schools, an average of 384 parents attend the forums on a consistent basis.

These forums are spread throughout the year, and are focused on topics selected by parents at the end of the previous school year. Each forum has two sessions – one in the morning and one in the evening – so that families have more of a chance to attend. Food, transportation, interpretation, and childcare are offered to parents at no charge. The Office of Family and Community Engagement works with content experts on the presentations and a next steps handout that provides parents with tips and messaging to share with their school/parent community.

Having these forums allows families to learn about important information on what is happening in the district and gives parents tools and strategies to engage with their schools and with their children.