

Family Resource Center Arvada High School Arvada, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

Arvada High School serves a diverse population of 840 students with 66% of the students on free or reduced lunch and an increase of students who are homeless, in transitional housing, or unaccompanied. Seeing the challenges that students and their families face, the principal, family engagement liaison, faith-based community members, and community volunteers created the Arvada High School Family Resource Center (FRC).

The FRC is located on school grounds for students to have immediate access to resources. The goal of the Center is to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where all of the students and their families, regardless of race, ethnicity, and socio-economic status, feel valued. School staff have found that the Center also strengthens the school, community, and family connection.

When students and their families enter the FRC, they receive free access to a food pantry, toiletries, school supplies, backpacks, clothing, transportation assistance, and internal and external support services. These supplies are provided by faith-based community members, volunteers, and non-profit organizations.



Over half of our student population and their families at Arvada face challenges outside of the school walls that affect attendance, academics, social skills, nutrition, and health. The FRC is in place to assist in improving families' circumstances and removing barriers so that parents and students can successfully navigate the school, both academically and socially.

Arvada's family liaison evaluates the practices by maintaining a confidential intake form. The intake form provides information to the liaison regarding the positive impact of the resources available in the FRC for the students and family.

The impact of the FRC is apparent outside of the school walls. Several local newspapers have highlighted the systemic support. One parent commented: "I don't have that much income and it's helped where I needed help for what I couldn't provide or afford at that time."

To anyone planning to open a Family Resource Center, Arvada's liaison recommends "to have a clear understanding of their student population needs and the support of their principal and community."