

RISE Night Stevens Elementary School Wheat Ridge, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

Stevens Elementary School sought to change the dynamics of traditional parent-teacher conferences and wanted to build community and family relationships in the process. They adopted RISE, a framework for collaborating with families on student needs and goals. Through RISE, the community comes together to share food, fun, community resource access and authentic learning experiences.

The first RISE night started with a nice meal that families and teachers enjoyed together. Teachers then escorted all families on a tour of the school, and led them into their children's classrooms. While parents and guardians were learning about their children's curriculum, students were engaging with their peers by having purposeful play that supported positive social interactions.



The Stevens team works collaboratively to present information in grade-level teams to assist families in understanding and experiencing what is being taught systematically, K-6. RISE gives visual representation of where students excel, meet grade level, or need extra support in expressing their critical thinking skills. Both teachers and families fully embrace a growth mindset around helping students RISE during their career at Stevens.

Families receive tools during the RISE meeting to support the learning environment at home. These tools support Steven's students and their family's communication with one another, critical thinking, and ability to explain and write their thoughts.

The RISE schedule consists of three family meetings throughout the year, as well as one parent or guardian one-on-one conference with the student's teacher. These meeting build on each other to show how students are achieving their goals, while continually adding resources and skill building for both students and families.

Steven's family engagement liaison offers the following thoughts about RISE's success: "The importance of collaborating with the community is valuing each person's attendance and opinions to make the event and comprehension successful for everyone involved."