

# Club House

## Linton Elementary School

### Fort Collins, CO



COLORADO  
Department of Education

Linton Elementary School, located in Fort Collins, recognizes that students achieve more positive outcomes when staff and families work together. Eleven years ago, about 80 Spanish-speaking parents approached school staff about the difficulty of helping their children with homework. Immediately, staff began brainstorming ways to support families through its afterschool programs and by working in partnership with community organizations. As a result, the school created Club House.

For the first two years of implementation, Club House consisted of counselors and tutors from a local middle school to provide homework and tutoring support to students for two hours, three days a week.

As the program evolved, so did the school's community support. Generation Now started to provide support with their volunteers and equipped the basement of the Club House with books, desks, computers, and transformed it into "La Escuelita" (The Little School). This community organization did a great job extending programming into the summer with the Get Ahead Club. For the past two years, the Boys and Girls Club facilitates La Escuelita.

Over the years, other community partners have contributed to the Club House's success:

- Matthews House: Homework Helpers (one hour, twice a week, year-round and Parent Café (two hours, once a week for five weeks).
- Fort Collins Read Aloud Early Start: provides families with books, conversation in Spanish about children's stages of language development and literacy (twice a year).
- Vida Sana with UC Community Health: Provides families free cholesterol screening.
- The Family Center/La Familia in conjunction with Vida Sana: Once a year brings families a six-week healthy cooking class where parents can learn, practice, and cook with their children.
- Neighborhood Connections, City of Fort Collins: Provides information about their Services programs and listening to families about what is important to them in their neighborhood.

Linton's evolution of partnering with the community stemmed from the feedback of 80 Spanish-speaking parents. This practice demonstrates the importance of providing an avenue for parents to partner with the school and to implement parent feedback when possible.