

PARITY Training

Boulder Valley School District

Boulder, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

The purpose of the PARITY (Parents Advocating Responsibly in the Interest of Their Youngsters) program is to uncover the power and knowledge that Latino parents possess to actively advocate for the educational success of their children. The program is a partnership between BVSD and CARE and hosted by one of BVSD's high schools (Centaurus High School).

Seven training sessions (held on Saturday mornings) are conducted for Spanish-speaking families. The parents are responsible to do work at home (homework) between sessions that engages them in school-related activities through a cycle of *idea posing*→*action*→*reflection*, which provides them with practical experience in using the advocacy strategies they are learning in the training and strengthens the power they are discovering within themselves so that they may actively engage in their children's schools and advocate for their educational success.

BVSD administrators, educators and students present at many sessions with the goal of parents being able to build relationships with others in their school community.

Parents will learn to:

- recognize the importance of parent involvement
- recognize and use their knowledge
- understand their rights as parents
- identify their children's assets
- identify advocacy strategies to support their children's education
- develop an action plan to effectively advocate for their children
- work with the school as partners in education as they advocate for their children
- meet and talk with the superintendent and board members about their children

The training sessions are typically conducted on Saturday mornings from 8:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. every other week. During the interim weeks of the training period, the parents visit their children's schools, the teachers/counselors, principals, and meet with the superintendent and board members.