



FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS DROPOUT PREVENTION AND RE-ENGAGEMENT SERVICES

WHAT ARE FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS?

Schools are one part in a larger social system that includes families and communities, which are equally responsible for the development of youth. School-community partnerships, or collaborations, are more than just informal links; they require commitment, vision and mutual trust. An effective collaboration is a formal agreement among participants to establish an autonomous structure to accomplish goals that would be difficult to achieve by any of the participants alone. The collaboration requires infrastructure that ensures participants ability to accomplish a shared vision and meet a set of goals.

Establishing long-term collaborations includes commitment, vision, cohesive policy, and systematic changes to develop formal and institutionalized sharing of a wider range of resources.

WHY FOCUS ON FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS?

Strong school, family, and community collaboration is a key strategy for efforts to generate essential interventions to address barriers to learning, enhance healthy development, and strengthen communities. It is one of the best predictors of a student's academic success.

Guiding families through the modern education system requires support with staff throughout the school. Students whose families feel supported in, are able to attend parent-teacher conferences, parent meetings, visit and volunteer in the classroom and participate in social events display higher levels of achievement than similar children whose families are less involved in school. The inclusion of more than one generation in these activities can also make an impact. Sharing the value of education between generations increases the likelihood that college and career readiness will be passed between generations.

WHAT DOES THE RESEARCH SAY?

Many studies have shown a direct and positive association between family engagement and student academic achievement in a variety of subjects. As students approach high school communication and collaboration with families becomes crucial in keeping students engaged in school.

Providing the opportunities for families and students to better understand the factors contributing to student success in high school is important to communicate as students transition from middle school to high school. For

Colorado Facts and Figures for Family Partnerships

- There are 41 Colorado state statutes that impact or pertain to dropout prevention, student engagement and school completion—6 of the 41 are categorized as Family-School Partnering.
- Colorado Senate Bill 13-193 encourages increased parent involvement and engagement in public schools.
- Engagement and involvement of parents, families, and communities are included in key strategies and interventions that result in higher completion rates for students of color.
- Parent Engagement Specialists and School Counselors at **Poudre School District in Ft. Collins, CO** work with parents and Family Liaisons in secondary schools to implement a program that informs parents and students of educational opportunities available for linguistically and culturally diverse, and high needs students.



incoming freshman and their families, explaining the importance of grades and attendance while continuing conversations on career and academic planning, supports shared aspirations between students, families and school staff.

In order to be successful in collaborating with families, considerations must be made to make families feel welcomed and included in the school community. Adjustments and intentionality will need to be considered specifically in offering language adaptations, varied hours of availability, literacy modifications, and outreach and education about the school environment.

Best practices that have been consistently identified as effective parental investment strategies include:

- Clearly and effectively communicating academic expectations to parents and caregivers;
- Planning for post-high school; and
- Concerted effort to keep adolescents on track with their schoolwork.

Family Partnerships References and Materials:

[Dropout Prevention Best Practice Guide References](#)

[Dropout Prevention Resources](#)

www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/bpguide-engagement

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