

# Language Development Council Englewood School District Englewood, CO



COLORADO  
Department of Education

Englewood School District's Coordinator of Learning Services for English Language (EL) and Gifted/Talented (GT) families partnered with EL teachers to institute the Language Development Council (LDC). The goal of the LDC is to provide a welcoming, engaging, and safe environment for all participants that teaches families how to become advocates for themselves and their children within Englewood schools.

The LDC meets monthly with families at various schools within the Englewood School District. Meetings occur in the evening and childcare is provided during the parent information session or when it is not a "family event." Families and staff collaboratively develop the agenda. Direct input by family members is given through emails, text messages and also through contact with individual school EL teachers.

The agendas focus on parent wants and needs, as well as current events that are happening within the district and the community. Agenda topics include: conference FAQ's, student testing and assessment information, community resources, school programs, and upcoming events.

The location changes based on what programs are being showcased at the various schools. For example, students and directors from programs at the High School of Choice (Cosmetology, Digital Audio Recording, SAGE-Sustainable and Green Energy) present directly to the council. The district also invites community partners to help families with resources such as the Englewood Library, summer camps, and food banks.

During every meeting there is time for interaction with families across schools and grade levels. This provides families a way to feel connected to others. This time is also an opportunity for the families to get to know and form a relationship with school and district staff.

Through the year, parents became the driving force behind the monthly meetings, with the district overseeing logistics. Families are no longer waiting, but rather initiating conversations at the schools if they have concerns or questions. Englewood School District has learned that making sure every family feels welcomed and involved is the key to student success.