

The D51 Family & Community Partnership Roadmap

District 51

Grand Junction, CO



The D51 Family and Community Partnership Roadmap was designed to elevate the district's efficacy in providing high impact family partnership opportunities to the community by fostering a culture of collaboration, innovation, and excellence in a way that fully embraces the dual capacity-building framework. The roadmap is essentially a strategic plan for co-creating authentic partnerships with D51 families and community members, which is a critical component of the overall District 51 Strategic Plan.



The Colorado Education Initiative facilitated the process to develop this tool. The actual plan was crafted by an exceptional community task force made up of dedicated D51 staff, representatives from diverse community organizations, and invested parents, including monolingual Spanish speaking parents. Co-creation was at the heart of this initiative. The 27-member task force aligned its work with goals outlined in D51's strategic plan.

At its core, the roadmap delineates three strategic objectives meticulously designed to empower the community with a robust framework for family and community partnership. First and foremost, the task

force strove to elevate communication channels, ensuring clarity, transparency, and accessibility for all stakeholders. Secondly, the group endeavored to enhance the capacity of D51 staff, equipping them with the tools and knowledge necessary to effectively serve families and forge symbiotic relationships with the broader community. Finally, the task force made recommendations to fortify the very foundation of the district: the cultivation of enduring partnerships with families, grounded in trust, respect, and mutual support.

The roadmap is a 5-year strategic plan with metrics that are designed to be measured and updated on an annual basis. The district holds quarterly meetings with this taskforce to provide updates on progress made and to gain insight and recommendations for making adjustments along the way. So far, the biggest challenge has been determining how to integrate family engagement professional development into the school year. Another challenge has been to allocate sufficient resources, both human and financial, toward ensuring the effort is sustainable.

Advice for replicating the practice is to 1) ensure the professional learning department is involved and planning to support the implementation of the staff learning necessary to make it successful; 2) ensure you have bilingual, bicultural staff and families involved in the co-creation and implementation of the work; and 3) collect qualitative data from stakeholders throughout the process and share it with key community leaders.