

Attendance Information

Workshops

Park Lane Elementary School
Aurora, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

A critical component of student success is attendance, and at Park Lane Elementary School in Aurora, staff host Attendance Information Workshops to help families understand the importance of being in school every day and how attendance affects student academic growth.

The Attendance Information Workshops were a school-wide effort. The truancy team met with school staff and the Family Liaison to plan a series of workshops for families on why students need to be in school every day. The planning team took into consideration the diversity of Park Lane Elementary and designed the workshops to better meet the needs of the diverse student and family population.

Initially, the Attendance Information Workshops were offered to new parents in the school and were scheduled quarterly. As the workshops appeared successful, another one was added for ELL families. In the workshop for ELL families, information was also provided on how the school system is organized. Such information is crucial to student success for families who are unfamiliar with how the American school system runs. Because Park Lane Elementary is a Title I school, Title I funds were used to cover any costs associated with the Attendance Information Workshops.

Such workshops link to student outcomes because a student who is on time to school and in their seat at the start of the day will have a full day of learning. The Attendance Information Workshops were evaluated by looking at the audience attendance of each workshop and the associated students' tardies and absences. Staff determined that students' tardies and absences improved for those students whose families attended the workshops.

Parents need to know what the school attendance policy is and how much attendance impacts student learning. If families only have access to this information through a school manual, it's unlikely that they will refer to it. However, if families are invited into a friendly environment where information on supporting their child is shared, they are much more responsive and engaged.