

Family and Community Engagement Standards

Denver Public Schools
Denver, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

In order to help guide the work that is done with families and communities, it can be beneficial for school leadership and school personnel to create policies and standards to follow. Denver Public Schools has done this through the creation of their Family and Community Engagement Standards. These standards are based on partnering research, have communication as a foundation woven throughout, and are aligned with the district's core values. Their core values include a student first focus, integrity, equity, collaboration, accountability, and fun.

The district created three standards and each of these standards includes indicators, as well as examples of quality implementation of the indicators. The first standard is focused on creating a school culture that embraces partnering that values family engagement, and is respectful, responsive, and welcoming. Examples of how this standard may be implemented in a quality way include a communication plan for the district, dedicated space for families in schools, identifying and integrating resources and services from the communities that families can access, and using families heritages/language/skills to strengthen curriculum and experiences.

The second standard focuses on removing obstacles to family partnering, and emphasizes the shared responsibility in decision making and collaborating for families. This may be implemented by having an effective engagement plan for the district, maintaining committees for both school and family to be a part of, or having policies and procedures in place that ensure that all families have access to school events and programs.

The third standard involves the joint work between families and schools to support student progress, including keeping families informed and engaging families as partners. To implement this standard, teachers may provide monthly classroom updates to families, ongoing trainings for families can be held, or schools and families can work together to discuss student-learning styles and develop learning goals.

While every district may be different in the way in which they develop plans, it is important to have policies and standards to guide the partnering work that is done.