

ELA District Advisory

Committee

Denver Public Schools

Denver, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

As a district, Denver Public Schools has many students and families who do not speak English as their first language. In order to make sure that these voices are represented as equal partners in the schools, the district created the English Language Acquisition District Advisory Committee. The goal of this committee is to equip culturally and linguistically diverse families with the training, information, and support that they need in order to be active partners in district decision-making, events, and initiatives.

This committee holds meetings that are designed to inform families of district information and school processes, and engage them in their children’s academics. Information is provided on testing, parent rights and responsibilities, supporting learning at home, and academic standards. Families are also given information on after-school and summer programming to help extend their children’s learning outside of the school.

The planning, implementation, and evaluation of the committee meetings is done jointly between the district’s English language and family engagement departments. Workshop topics are chosen and developed based on parent and community feedback, as well as the district’s mission to keep parents informed of policies and procedures.

The district works to remove any challenges to participation in the committee meetings. Transportation and childcare options as well as varied meeting times are provided, and translation and interpretation services are also provided. At each meeting, staff interpreters representing the 10 most common languages spoken by ELA parents and students are present.

Denver Public Schools believes that by supporting family understanding of policies, procedures, and academic expectations, student achievement will improve. Having the appropriate knowledge allows parents to advocate for their students. These committee meetings also give parents the opportunity to voice concerns or needs that they may have. The district believes in continued transparency, and gives data to families in order to help them make informed decisions.