

Parent Teacher Leadership

Teams

Denver Public Schools

Denver, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

When engaging in family-school partnering throughout a district, it can be beneficial to have both informal and formal, long-term programs to support efforts. In Denver Public Schools, Parent Teacher Leadership Teams have been created in order to maintain a sustainable family engagement structure that is focused specifically on increasing student achievement.

The goals of this particular program are to increase parent engagement and establish a district culture of shared responsibility between school and home for increasing student outcomes. The groups use self-assessment data to target where students may need more support, and develop engagement plans that are aligned to district academic goals. They work to understand how students are performing and determine ways that achievement can be increased while also engaging families.

The Parent Teacher Leadership Teams include parents/guardians and staff from each school that work together; they typically include a school leader, one teacher from each grade level, and two parents or guardians from each grade. These groups meet once per month, and both teachers and families have duties for which they are responsible.

Having these groups ensures that a family partnering structure is in place that aligns with student achievement. These groups are also responsible for Academic Standards Nights, when teachers explain Academic Standards and expectations to families of students in their classrooms, which support involvement in school as well as student learning at home.

The district has seen a significant increase in the number of family members that attend events. Additionally, the entire staff in the schools receives professional development on engaging culturally, linguistically, and socio-economically diverse families, and they are able to develop a common understanding about parent engagement and the impact that partnering has on achievement.

While formal evaluation has not yet been done on these groups, Denver Public Schools see the teams as a wonderful way to set an expectation of shared responsibility in the schools.