

Social Emotional Learning GET Together

Laurene Edmondson Elementary School

Loveland, CO



Laurene Edmondson Elementary School's Guaranteed Education Team (GET) Together initiative began three years ago to boost the parent voice in decision-making. This year, Edmondson staff used a GET Together to help families understand the basic concepts of social emotional learning (SEL).

The success of the SEL GET Together was a community affair! The mental health team, including the principal, psychologist, social worker, counselor, and SEL paraprofessional, took the lead in planning the GET Together. This team worked closely with the family, school, and community partnership liaison, Parent Teacher Association, and School Accountability Committee. Staff worked as a collaborative whole to finalize planning and implementation of this event including logistics, prepping materials, and presenting some of the sessions. Crossroads Church and Thompson School District staff both provided volunteers and conducted presentations.



Prior to the event, school staff sent a Sign-Up Genius to families. As a follow-up, staff created individualized flyers with each teacher highlighting two areas that they felt would be beneficial for families to attend. Teachers also made 3-5 personal phone calls to the families they especially wanted to attend. The response rate increased about three-fold after these additional outreach efforts.

The actual event began with a 30 minute "soft start" in the gym with a zones of regulation check in, dinner, and SEL activities at each table to simulate how we start our day at school with students. After the soft start, school-aged students remained in the gym for a make-and-take of at home SEL tools, while younger students went to a room for childcare, and adults attended their two chosen 25-minute sessions. At the end of each session, the adults filled out an electronic survey on chrome books.

As a result of this event, families and staff now speak the same SEL language. This information especially came in handy during remote schooling due to COVID-19. Staff could easily remind families about strategies and tools to use in the home learning environment (e.g., cozy corners, calming strategies, zones of regulation at home, setting limits with schoolwork expectations). Staff created additional videos for families highlighting the previous strategies and tools that were presented at the GET Together.

Surveys indicated that families felt like the GET Together was "calming," "sets them up for success," and that they "wanted more." Staff commented that the planning was done well and was a whole-school effort. Edmondson's hard work and partnership sustainability has not gone unnoticed. The GET Together work was featured in the [Hetchinger report](#), published in February 2020.