

# Grassroots Greeley-Evans Summit

## Greeley-Evans School District 6

### Greeley, CO



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

In August 2017, the Greeley-Evans School District held its inaugural Grassroots Greeley-Evans Summit. The goal of the summit was to create a space for parents, family members, educators, and the community to engage in authentic dialogue and cultural enrichment via interactive activities associated with access, equity, and opportunity. A district staff member explains: “It is our belief that families’ stories, their passion, and their knowledge help us create an environment in which all children and families access a quality education.”

A 14-member committee met monthly for eight months to plan the summit. The extensive planning ensured that summit breakout sessions and content matched students’ and families’ needs. Greeley partnered with two community organizations, the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalitions (CSPC) and Lift One Life All (LOLA), to conduct focus groups at family engagement nights and parent-teacher conferences. Focus group prompts were universal, and data were collected and discussed among committee members.

Nearly 150 parents, family members, guardians, educators, school board members, and community members attended the grassroots summit. In their welcome packet, family members received premade personalized business cards to help level the playing field between families and staff. After breakfast, attendees rotated through four breakout sessions. Breakout topics were:

- Creating a space for culture
- College in your backyard
- El Movimiento
- What Parents Need to Know to be More Effectively Involved in their Children’s Education



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During lunch, former Lt. Governor Joe Garcia shared personal experience about the impact of family engagement in his own life.

The Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition evaluated the breakout sessions via a perception survey. All participants received survey results in a follow-up (bilingual) document. The greatest takeaway from the evaluation was the evolving dynamics and complexities that exist when engaging parents and families with cultures other than your own and the importance of a courageous conversation.

Standard 4--Speaking Up for Every Child

