

# Environmental Scan

## Colorado's Finest High School of Choice

### Englewood, CO



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

## **COLORADO'S FINEST HIGH SCHOOL OF CHOICE**

Colorado's Finest High School of Choice is an alternative high school in the Englewood School District. Parents at this school have been less involved than parents of other high schoolers within the district. The school's principal recognized the importance of family partnerships and decided to investigate the factors hindering her students in order to support student success.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN**

The administration at Colorado's Finest High School of Choice received a Counselor Corp grant, which helped in the creation of the Environmental Scan. The Environmental Scan is an electronic survey which was sent out to parents, teachers, and students to determine the needs of students via self-identification and perception data from parents and teachers during the 2016-2017 school year. The survey's goal was to determine "what can be offered during the school year based on the perceived and self-reported needs of our students?"

Student, parent, and teacher responses revealed three major areas of concern: anxiety, depression, and stress. These three social-emotional issues have been detrimentally impacting students at Colorado's Finest High School of Choice.

Colorado's Finest High School of Choice used the data collected by the Environmental Scan to determine need for in-school programming. The following programs were implemented during the 2016-2017 school year and will continue to be offered during the 2017-2018 school year.

## **MINDFULNESS CLASS**

"Thoughts, feelings, behavior: How do I manage?" This elective class offers students a chance to discover healthy ways to cope with every-day stressors, change their thought patterns, and create positive outcomes within their own lives. Breathing and movement techniques are taught through yoga to help students take control of their body and thoughts.

## **21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY LGBTQ-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE**

"A place for students to meet and support each other" in the discussion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) issues and topics. The primary goal of this elective is to spread equality and understanding across the school's population.