



PARENT/SUPERINTENDENT FORUMS

The superintendent of Adams 14 School District launched regularly offered Parent/Superintendent Forums during the 2016-2017 school year which are held throughout the community. The forums gave parents and families the opportunity to discuss issues concerning their students in person with district leadership. Topics included, but were not limited to: the district's progress in boosting academic performance, the district's turnaround plan, and what to expect when students take state tests. District leaders were able to better understand how to capitalize on family desire to be involved as a result of these regular forums.

These forums have turned several suggestions into action. When parents told the district they wanted more access to technology as a learning tool for their students, Superintendent Abrego requested that the board of education set aside funds for technology in Adams 14 schools and classrooms; students will now have access to Chrome Books for the 2017-2018 school year. Parents and families requested a meeting and forum with local college representatives, and Adams 14 set up college visit to meet this request. The visit included a discussion of how parents can make college a reality for their children; for many parents and families, this visit was their first time on a college campus.

FAMILIES EMPOWERED INSTUTUTE

The half-day Families Empowered Institute and Resource Fair was a popular event, drawing in over 75 parents and families. Participants chose between 12 workshops which focused on topics such as: preschool, understanding grade level expectations, high school to college and career transitions, and how families can help boost student achievement through family-school engagement. School staff shared information with parents and families on ways to support their children's social-emotional development outside of school. Parents and families were also able to visit with representatives of 30 community organizations like the Boys and Girls Club, special education services, local healthcare providers, and Denver-area colleges.

Parents and families are empowered to become advocates for their students and for themselves through the Parent/Superintendent Forums and the Families Empowered Institute. Adams 14 leaders believe the best way to involve more parents and families is to encourage those who participate to share what they have learned with family and friends. School leaders have been encouraging the sharing of district partnership so that every family can become involved in the empowerment movement.