

Community Hubs

Denver Public Schools

Denver, CO



The Community Hubs initiative in Denver Public Schools (DPS) promotes a holistic approach to student - learning. The Hubs provide programs and services that support students’ social, emotional, physical, and academic growth while also supporting families experiencing food insecurity.

This initiative was a collaborative effort between the Denver mayor, DPS superintendent, other DPS leadership, DPS’s FACE office, various community partners, families, and national partners. DPS worked with each identified community to build out the services most aligned to their needs. Community Hubs are dedicated to promoting equity and inclusion in DPS’s communities. The Community Hubs celebrates diversity while addressing the unique needs of community members.

To ensure inclusivity, the hubs provide physical accessibility, language accommodations, and support for diverse learning styles and abilities. DPS values representation and empowered individuals from marginalized groups to participate in and lead the programs. This initiative linked to improved student outcomes, positive school climate, and overall school improvement by providing essential services, fostering community engagement, and ensuring sustainability and scalability of the model.

Community Hubs are part of the school district strategy roadmap; therefore, they were evaluated through goals that have been implemented every year since launching. During this program year, Community Hubs offered services to more than 3,000 families in the community. Over 600 parents took ESL classes, 52 parents graduated through the GED program, over 80 parents in the community were supported with employment, and three grocery markets were launched over the past year and a half. Challenges, such as aligning resources with community needs, were addressed to ensure DPS was working closely with other community centers to not duplicate services but rather work together to better serve not only DPS families but the entire Denver community.



For those aspiring to replicate the practice, the key elements to focus on are strong leadership support and ensuring that parent engagement is seen as a collective responsibility. As emphasized by participants involved in planning, implementing, and evaluating the practice, the success of Community Hubs hinged on these foundational pillars. One partner noted, “Community Hubs are changing lives,” highlighting the profound impact of these initiatives. Another staff member shared, “The path is not easy but is the most rewarding job I have ever had in my life,” indicating that while the journey may be challenging, the outcomes are immensely fulfilling.

Additionally, a parent reflected on their personal experience, saying, “It’s not just about advancing in my education, but it’s the first place where I was part of a community, the first time I felt I had a support system.” This underscores the importance of creating a supportive and inclusive environment where individuals feel connected and valued.