

Multilingual Family Night – CTE Spotlight

Englewood Schools

Englewood, CO

Multilingual Family Nights happen district-wide four times per year. The purpose of these nights is to bring together culturally and linguistically diverse students and their families into Englewood Schools to share a meal, network, and learn about programming in the district. This is in conjunction with students and families providing feedback on important district initiatives.

The goal of hosting Multilingual Family Night in one of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, specifically the Salon and Spa Academy, was to provide multilingual learner students the opportunity to explore diverse career paths while engaging their families in one of the CTE programs. This event also allows cosmetology students to showcase their skills and gain hands-on experience while helping multilingual students and their families understand the value of CTE, ultimately supporting student success and broadening career prospects for multilingual learners.

Planning for the Multilingual Family Night at the Salon and Spa Academy involved collaboration among the District Multilingual Education Coordinator, the Salon and Spa Academy Coordinator, the District Family, School, and Community Liaison, the Multilingual Family Liaison, the Director of Student Services, and three English Language Learner teachers from across the district. The logistics of scheduling, dinner, and activities were organized during planning meetings held months in advance.



Multilingual learners and their families were invited to Multilingual Family Night at the Salon and Spa Academy to receive free services from cosmetology students. This event served several key purposes: it provided practical, hands-on experience for cosmetology students, allowing them to apply their skills in a real-world setting, which is essential for their professional learning and licensing. At the same time, it introduced Multilingual families to the career and technical education (CTE) pathways available, such as cosmetology, barbering, and esthetics, expanding their awareness of the educational and career opportunities the district offers. This exposure helps highlight professional industry-accredited programs and makes them more accessible to diverse communities.

Additionally, community resource booths were set up in the cafeteria area, where dinner was served, allowing families to learn about resources such as local library programs and community health services. Overall, the event aimed to engage Multilingual families directly in the educational process, strengthen school-community ties, and promote a supportive and inclusive environment. Increased family involvement is linked to higher student motivation and achievement and fosters a more cohesive and positive school climate, contributing to overall school improvement.



At the conclusion of each Multilingual Family Night event, Englewood Schools holds a continuous improvement discussion to evaluate the evening. They also gather feedback from families and Salon and Spa Academy teachers to enhance future events. Over the past few years, they have addressed challenges related to scheduling numerous appointments and developed a system that better serves both the cosmetology students and the families receiving services.

If someone wants to replicate this practice, start by exploring the CTE programs available in their schools that they want families to learn more about. The next step is to collaborate with the leaders of these programs. They are likely eager to showcase the hard work and passion invested in these programs while giving students and families insight into the educational activities happening in these classrooms.