

Jeffco Family School Partnership Promising Practice Project

Jefferson County Public School-Title I

Golden, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

Jeffco's Family-School Partnership Group is comprised of family representatives from the district's Title I schools (elementary through Jr./Sr. High), Title I Family Engagement Liaisons, and Title I department staff. The group meets six times throughout the school year in a central location. Jeffco hosts the meetings centrally (and strategically) at the District Education Center in the Boardroom. Besides being large enough and relatively convenient for families, it is an empowering moment for families to feel comfortable navigating the district locale and seeing themselves work and collaborate in the same room where district decisions are made. To remove challenges for families, Title I provides food and childcare for each meeting. This year, hosts 'upped our game' by offering a Chess Club to interested students. Family feedback is clear - *they want and appreciate meaningful activities for their children during this meeting time!*

During the 2017-18 school year, district staff encouraged the group to shine the spotlight on events and activities in their individual schools. The intent was to elevate the six National Standards for Family-School Partnerships, with an emphasis on 'links to learning' that support student success. This endeavor began with a 'world cafe' activity so the Title I team could share the standards with families and describe what they might 'look like' in a school. This also gave families an opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas on what they notice about family engagement efforts in their school and district. Now, with a better understanding of the National Standards, families worked together and with their school's Family Engagement Liaison to identify a 'promising practice' in their school that they wanted to highlight.

Each consecutive meeting gave families time to plan, collaborate, ask questions and work on presentations that would best 'tell the story' of their promising practice. This included submitting a written description, creating a slideshow and tri-fold poster display. The Title I department also partnered with Warren Tech (Jeffco Schools option school) Video Production students to produce a group slide presentation as well as a video featuring family interviews which captured families thoughts and insights on family engagement.

The culminating event was a 'red carpet' celebration which featured families sharing their poster presentations, a slideshow, and ending with a screening of the video. Many tears were shed as attendees listened to parents, speaking both English and Spanish, share the impact of family-school partnerships in their lives. This was a meaningful and memorable moment for Title I families to shine!

Standard 5--Sharing Power