

Title I Collective/Parent Leadership Teams

Greeley Evans School District 6

Greeley, CO



The goal of the Title I Collective and the Parent Leadership Team (PLT) practice was to have more parents, especially Title I school parents, have open discussions about the district and learn how to be more involved with district staff. While all parents were welcome to attend the Parent Leadership Team, District 6 staff wanted to make sure that all of the districts' populations were represented.

Parent recruitment consisted primarily of personal invitations. District 6's Title I Specialist, Janet Navarro Perez, started with families who attended other events at the Family Center. These are families who previously attended Strengthening Families courses and sewing classes. Perez also invited parents from five Title I PLT schools—four elementary schools and one middle school.



Perez explains: "My goal was to get as many parents to attend as possible. I personally called each parent myself and told them about the event. I had other team members from the Family Center help me by giving me names and numbers of parents they worked with, and I then called them and told them they were referred by the certain team member."

The personal outreach paid off; 17 new families attended the first Title I Collective/PLT meeting! Each participating school also had a group of teachers, administrators, and counselors. Having school staff also on the team was critical because it ensured that parent leadership would continue in their individual buildings.

Unfortunately, the Title I Collective was only able to meet three times before COVID-19 forced schools to close. However, Family Center staff remained in contact with the families during stay at home orders. Perez shares: "I know there has been positive school improvements and more involvement with some of the parents since because parents would ask me to help them get in touch with certain teachers when they could not get ahold of them during the online learning process. I also had a lot of parents tell me that they really enjoyed these meetings because they had never attended anything like them, and it made them feel more involved and able to speak up about any problems they are having with their children's schools."

For those looking to form their own parent leadership teams, consistency and persistence is key! Perez shared: "Even if you have to feel like you're being annoying or bothering too much, sometimes that is what they need to see so families know that you really want them there. After so many calls to the same parents, a lot of them already know me and feel comfortable having a conversation with me when I call."

