

Parent and Family Advocates

Greeley Evans Weld County School District 6

Greeley, CO



Greeley-Evans School District 6 has leveraged ESSER funds to support 22 Parent and Family Advocates (PAFA) located at each elementary, middle and K-8 schools. The focus of the PAFA role aligns with the vision of Innovation 2030 (I2030), the district's strategic plan, of D6 embracing authentic, meaningful, and collaborative relationships with families to sustain belonging and trust as partners in education. There are two strategic objectives within I2030 Strengthening Partnerships, one of the plan's focus areas:

1. Develop and implement a comprehensive PK-13 partnership plan.
2. Develop and implement staff training (to develop capacity) to partner with families.



Those involved in the planning and implementation of the work included the D6 Family Center and a task force consisting of administrators, teachers, community members, and assistant superintendents to support the development of the strategic plan and training for PAFA's at each school. The Family Center also works regularly with community agencies to provide necessary resources to PAFA's so they can provide holistic support for families. PAFA's convene monthly at the Family Center to engage in professional development trainings. In partnership with community agencies, PAFA's receive information from various organizations at the monthly convenings to be better prepared to support families.

During the Fall of 2022, a total of three PAFA's participated in the "Elevating Your Role as a Family Engagement Liaison" online course provided by the Colorado Department of Education's Office of FSCP. Staff had the opportunity to take a deep dive into each of the National Family-School Partnership Standards and begin to connect their everyday work to D6's I2030 strategic plan. As their final capstone project, staff created a site-based plan focused on any standard they chose and began the implementation process at their building. Plans focused on different partnership standards linking to student outcomes, positive school climate, and overall school improvement. By the Spring of 2023, all PAFA's participated in the 10-module online learning as a group.

Reviewing course capstones from each PAFA helped evaluate their understanding of the work. This provided insight into the learning of staff members in building genuine relationships at the building level with families using the National Standards. Monthly reports are also gathered to view the number of referrals that are being made to various community agencies.

Advice includes sitting side by side with staff members as they complete the course so they feel supported with the work. Follow up with the capstone plans and support PAFAs with either implementation or presentation to their administrator. Another piece of advice is to use the P-12 FSCP Framework. The framework provides a starting point to focus on one or more partnership elements that your organization wants to work towards. The last piece of advice is to work closely with your community organizations to support the well-being of all families.

Standard 5 — Sharing Power

Essential Element 4 — Dedicate Necessary Resources