

Family Center Alamosa School District Alamosa, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education



It began with a stakeholder's report that was compiled before Dr. Diana Jones and Luis Murillo took over Alamosa School District as Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. As a result, listening sessions were conducted with parents, staff, and community members. After these listening sessions as well as stakeholder meetings were complete, a strategic plan and blueprint for the future was created. Three focus areas were identified including high-quality student-centered learning, healthy students and staff, and partnerships with families. These partnerships should include meaningful, impactful communication and creating leadership roles in Alamosa Schools for parents and family members that mirror the demographics of the community.

Superintendent, Diana Jones, Assistant Superintendent, Luis Murillo, District MTSS Coordinator, Jamie Madigan, Family Engagement Coordinator, Courtney Vigil, and community members, Jamie and Cristalray Dominguez, were all integral in the creation of the Family Center. Alamosa School District entered into a partnership with Shooting Stars Cultural and Leadership Center to open the Family Center. The Family Center is located at 807 Ross Avenue, Alamosa, CO, with the hope to provide a space to empower students and families.



The Family Center is a one-stop shop for families who have questions when navigating the Alamosa School District. With the help of technology, the Family Center will offer bilingual services to drive student achievement and long-term success for all students. The Family Center also offers bilingual parent education classes such as Familias Fuertes/Strengthening Families; Path to Scholarships; English to Spanish and Spanish to English language classes; as well as PowerSchool assistance, internet to register students, check and report attendance, and check grades. The center seeks to provide foundational support to help families navigate the school system and ensure sustainability and long-term success. To further their family engagement work, Alamosa School District also hired its first ever district-wide Family Engagement Coordinator, whose office is located at the Family Center. Alamosa School District also began to hold an intentional monthly meeting with community partners to strategize ways to support students and their families. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, the district saw a great need to reignite their partnerships with key players in the community such as: Shooting Stars, Boys and Girls Club, Center for Restorative Programs, Wraparound, LaPuente, Adelante, San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group, Alamosa Library, Early Childhood Council, and the Joint Oversight Group.

The new Family Center did not open until May 12th, 2023, therefore there was not enough programming to evaluate the program fully. Next year the Family Center plans to focus on intentional two-way communication with staff, students, and their families. One of the biggest challenges getting the center up and running was bringing all the moving pieces together to make it happen.

The best advice the district can provide to others hoping to open a center is to partner with people and districts that have gone through similar trials and tribulations. Always listen to students and families to ensure you are meeting the needs of your community based on their feedback and not just what you "think" your community needs.

Standard 6 — Collaborate with Community
Essential Element 4 — Dedicate Necessary Resources