

District Advisory Board

Poudre School District

Fort Collins, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

Family involvement in school processes is critical to forming lasting partnerships, and it is important that families are able to give their input to district-level leaders. In the Poudre School District (PSD), a District Advisory Board (DAB) has been established to provide families with this opportunity, and to keep them apprised of happenings in the district.

The DAB was established to represent the interests of current students and their families, and to communicate these with school and district leadership. It is made up of one primary and one alternative representative from each school. Preference is given to parents with children in the school to act as the representatives. Representatives can volunteer or be chosen by the school principal. Four representatives from the community are also recruited to serve on the DAB. In addition to the regular monthly meetings, the DAB has subcommittees that meet separately on specific topics.

A representative from the Board of Education acts as a liaison between the DAB and the PSD Board of Education. The Chair of the DAB and Chair-Elect meet every month with the district Superintendent or representative and the liaison in order to plan and evaluate meetings, and to determine topics for future DAB meetings.

For other districts interested in beginning this type of board, DAB representatives recommend that families, community members, and school leadership be involved in the planning and implementation. There should be clear communication systems established, bylaws created, regular meetings set up, and a district policy written to ensure the continual existence of the board.

This type of a project is critical for partnerships, as many of the topics that the DAB examines and provides feedback on relate directly to how the district operates, and how the system functions to support student outcomes. Feedback from the DAB is considered by the Board of Education when making decisions that will influence students, families, and the community.