

Allies Supporting Latinx Families

Boulder Valley School District

Boulder, CO



Boulder Valley School District's (BVSD) Office of Family Partnerships works hard to ensure every family has a voice in their children's education. One way to accomplish this goal is to host an event called Family Partnership Allies Supporting Latinx Families. The aim of this event was to connect and foster greater synergy between all of the district's community partners that serve Latinx students and families. In addition to building their awareness of ally organizations working in the same field, BVSD also set the goal of creating a collective, shared calendar which would enable everyone to better promote each other's offerings and ensure that partners are not unintentionally scheduling events on overlapping dates.

As a team working in the realms of equity and family partnerships, four partners planned the spring meeting. The planning team invited representatives from approximately fifteen organizations throughout our county.

Community partners and BVSD staff gathered for 90 minutes with more than a dozen representatives in attendance. Over lunch, they each had a few minutes to convey the mission of their organization, share some of the major projects that are relevant to Latinx families, and highlight any major upcoming events in the 2019-20 school year. During the second half of the meeting, BVSD staff provided them with time to network and enter all of their major offerings into a shared Google calendar. With coordinated calendars, staff and community partners are confident that more students and families will benefit from these opportunities if providers are promoting each other's efforts and learning from each organization's respective successes and challenges.

It was clear from the comments of participants that they greatly appreciated the chance to learn about each other's work and network. The planning committee only experienced two challenges in planning the event. The idea emerged late in the school year. In retrospect, it would have increased turn-out to have invited people to the event much farther in advance. The other challenge was trying not to exclude any relevant organization while at the same time maintain a narrow focus on those who work directly to support the learning and well-being of Latinx families.

This event was easy to plan and coordinate, and well worth the time invested. It helped that staff wrote a compelling invitation and the detailed meeting agenda mirrored district priorities for the meeting and included some time for informal connections. One participant called the event an "exciting opportunity" and another said it would help their organization "improve outreach efforts on connecting residents to community partners and the planning and coordination of events and programs."