

Colorado's Promising Partnership Practices

Laurene Edmondson Elementary: Partners In Education (PIE Nights)

Description

Laurene Edmondson Elementary formed Partners in Education (PIE) to increase family engagement, build/sustain relationships, and strengthen family voice in school policy and practice. Through PIE Nights, parents and students are active participants in policy, practice and activity development by engaging in two-way communication with staff members and making decisions together. Not only does this increase family engagement for the school, but also increases buy-in, ownership and a feeling of belonging. When families see their input in action at the school, they begin to see themselves as vital members of the decision-making process.

Visit us online at Laurene Edmondson Website

<https://www.thompsonschoools.org/Domain/17>

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

- Helping all families feel welcome and heard
- Facilitating meaningful collaboration between school staff and families
- Ensuring 2-way communication
- Removing common barriers that prevent meaningful family involvement
- Engaging staff as active listeners
- Making the commitment to follow through on family feedback
- Engaging families in the learning lives of their children

Activities

During PIE Nights, families are invited to join school staff for pizza pie and dessert pie. Prior to each event, school staff develop questions for families to gather input on school improvement issues, student learning, school policy and practice, and topics raised as areas for exploration by staff, students and families. After dinner, the adults move from station to station providing feedback while staff listens, clarifies and records their input. Third through fifth graders are also invited to participate in the discussion rotations and childcare is provided for students too young to participate.

Parents and Families

Partners in Education has opened lines of communication with families who bring a wider array of ideas and more diverse points of view. It is a highly effective family engagement strategy that fosters real partnerships and communication between staff and families who have not historically been involved as active school stakeholders.

