Sharing information with families on what occurs throughout the school day helps families better understand how they can best support their child’s academics and how they can best partner with the school. At Laredo Elementary School in Aurora, staff accomplish this by inviting parents to Take Your Parent to School Day.

The goal of Take Your Parent to School Day is to share information with families at all grade levels about what happens at Laredo Elementary throughout the day and how everyone involved with the students can impact their academic achievement. During their time at the school, parents learn about supporting their child’s learning, community involvement, discipline policies, and the importance of attendance. Staff who supported Take Your Parent to School Day included literacy teachers, classroom teachers, the principal and assistant principal, TOSA, the family liaison, and CCL.

Information was shared with parents in a variety of formats, allowing parents to see the correlation between what is done both inside and outside of the classroom with student outcomes. When families understand the structure of the school day, how the school operates, and are aware of opportunities they have access to to support their child and the school, they grow more empowered to be an engaged participant in the education system.

Data from Laredo Elementary showed an improvement in school attendance and fewer referrals and suspensions. Staff hope to see an increase in community involvement and numbers of volunteers at the school.

Marketing events such as Take Your Parent to School Day is important for increasing rates of parent participation. Laredo Elementary staff recommend using as many ways of announcing the event as possible. Examples they used include the school calendar, the outside marquee, phone messenger, and having students write personal invitations to their parents. Events such as Take Your Parent to School Day show their value in providing opportunities for families to ask questions, thus making sure that expectations and policies are well understood.