

# The Overland Giving Pantry

## Overland High School

### Aurora, CO



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

The goal of this practice was to restructure ancient school practices that were originally built on predominately White Family-School-Community Partnerships (FSCP) into more inclusively diverse FSCP to meet the needs of all students and aid in their academic success. This practice builds upon Cherry Creek School District's (CCSD) goal of inclusive excellence and student well-being.

Thanks to the EASI Connect for Success Grant from the Colorado Department of Education, Overland was able to hire Sara Khatib as a Community Liaison at Overland High School (OHS). Through school, district, and community partnerships, Overland has been able to serve over 150 families monthly with food needs. Students and staff members, interested in gaining volunteer experience, helped distribute goods to families while also building strong positive relationships with Overland community members.



Multiple avenues were available to stock the Giving Pantry, including community donations. The organization Metro Caring was also able to provide boxed goods that parents could grab and go when needed. In addition to an on-site food pantry, a SECOR Cares collaboration was also in place to serve the Overland community every first Wednesday of the month. The SECOR mobile food truck provided great options of meat, fruit/vegetables, bread, canned goods, and sanitary products that families were able to shop with pride and hand select. Not only does the Giving Pantry provide food, but it also supplies shoppers with at home hygiene supplies, blankets, socks, books, board games, and various school supplies that ultimately aid in student mental health well-being and high academic achievement.

The foremost challenge experienced during implementation was reaching out to parents and notifying them about the Giving Pantry and how to access it. The practice was evaluated by both parents and students by providing feedback on what options the pantry should provide and modifications to make the pantry more accessible.