

Discovery Social Emotional Learning Program and Parent Partnering

Dolores County School District
Dove Creek, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

Partnering between families and schools can lead to strong improvements in students' attendance and academic success. However, it is important to note that partnering can also help to support the behavioral development of students as well as school community overall. Through the Discovery Social Emotional Learning Program and Parent Partnering, the Dolores County School District is working to improve school culture through relationship building among staff, students, and families.

Dolores County School District recognized that changes needed to be made in terms of social emotional learning and engagement. The new Discovery program and Parent Partner position were implemented in order for parents to share their concerns to the school, to provide outreach and training, and social emotional programming support. Overall, these programs are also intended to foster more positive relationships in the schools.

All school staff were required to attend a four day training of the Discovery program, and the first week of school students were only instructed in the Discovery program and not traditional classes. Students and staff discussed expectations in the schools, how to resolve conflict, improve communication, manage anger, and effectively work in groups and teams. Later in the school year, the Parent Partner held a family training similar to staff training. The district believes that by improving social emotional learning, student outcomes in academics will also improve.

Having both of these programs working in conjunction is very important. By offering training opportunities to families regarding the social emotional program, the district is able to work to bridge the gap between school and home and improve the relationships with families. Dolores County School District believes that any other districts wanting to use the program should see training as a self-reflection process. By being willing to continually improve partnering practices, families and district staff have formed a strong relationship and work closely together for students' behavioral and academic success.