

Each One Teach One

Denver Public Schools

Denver, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

A very powerful way to help engage families in students' education is by having parents support learning. This is the premise behind Denver Public Schools' Each One Teach One program, which recruits parents from the school community to act as tutors for small group tutors. This program believes in raising low academic achievement by fostering rich, intensive, academic-based conversations between students and families.

This program runs for nine weeks, and consists of daily 25-45 minute small group lessons. Approximately 546 children from kindergarten to third grade are currently in the program, and almost all of these students are on the free or reduced lunch program. The sessions integrate vocabulary, phonics, comprehension, oral conversation, and executive functioning skills into the lessons in order to improve reading, writing, and science skills. Many of the volunteers are Spanish speakers and wanted their children to have more English language tutoring, so the district utilized partnerships with community members to gain more English speaking volunteers.

Each One Teach One develops trust and relationships not only between the school and the family volunteers, but also between the family tutors and the families of the students in the program. The program also shows families that they can help develop their students' learning at home, by having tutors who are of similar backgrounds as themselves.

The program has yielded very positive results for the district. Evaluation showed that first grade students in the program are 2.6 times more likely to be at grade level than peers on literacy tests, and that students in the program achieved a 24 point gain in percentile rank after the program, versus their pre-scores. And volunteers have provided an amazing 5,512 hours of tutoring!

If other districts or schools are interested in this type of a program, Denver Public Schools suggests beginning small with parent volunteers who serve one or two classrooms, in order to allow the program to grow and develop and for volunteers to come forward.