

Parent Engagement Guide

Denver Public Schools

Denver, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

When engaging families in the career and college process, it is important to demonstrate to parents how they can be active partners from their children’s early ages. The goal of the Parent Engagement Guide: Birth to College initiative is to provide a consistent message to all schools in Denver Public Schools on the critical role that families play in preparing children for their futures.

This Parent Engagement Guide provides information on several important areas. It outlines what families can do at each stage of development to encourage prepared graduation, provides strategies that parents can incorporate into their daily lives, educates parents on the birth to college pipeline, and establishes a parent to parent network for making connections. The guide also builds capacity around parent engagement by providing professional development.

In addition to the creation of the guide, the district also facilitates workshops around the content. Presentations, guides, and workbooks for parents (early childhood, elementary, middle, and high school workbooks) were created to be used in the workshops, which are presented by school staff.

Evaluation of past presentations included reflection by participants on the most helpful aspects of the workshop and places where improvements could be made. Overall, the feedback was positive. The participants were most excited about the specific activities that they could do with their children, and also appreciated learning about child development. A few of the participants did mention that they thought it would be helpful to have larger groups of teachers and parents involved so that they could learn more from one another.

This guide and associated presentations provide strategies that all parents can use to support their students’ journey through school and on to college and career, no matter what their ethnic, cultural, or socio-economic background is.