

Community Collaboration for Student Success

HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-op
Englewood, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

Though traditional education involves students attending schools and families partnering with these educators, family-school partnering can also be achieved in non-traditional educational settings, such as blended learning at HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-op. It is designed to provide a blended learning model through a community-directed partnership.

The mission of HOPE is to provide student-focused education through blended learning for students who typically are underrepresented in online learning due to access issues. HOPE works to create partnerships with community learning centers to provide small learning environments that represent community voice. Their system is intended to build capacity by coaching educators within their communities rather than relying on bringing people in from the outside.

A large part of HOPE's work is ensuring that families remain connected to learning. Their programming supports families and children in setting goals and achieving their academic potential within learning centers that are run by community groups. The staff members employed by the community groups are familiar with their communities, can relate and communicate with parents, and have a passion for working with their local students.

HOPE's methods appear to result in improved performance both academically and in regards to family engagement, as they report small but significant gains for their consistent students. They show improved outcomes in academic achievement and growth, as well as increased reading skills. They also report improved student engagement for school events and activities, and increasing re-enrollment rates.

While HOPE is not a traditional school setting, they still maintain the importance of working with families to build relationships in order to support student learning and outcomes.