

Community Resources

Directories

Denver Public Schools

Denver, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

In partnering with families, even programs that may seem small can have an important impact on relationships. One program like this in Denver Public Schools is the collection of Community Resources Directories. The goal of these directories is to ensure that families have access to information about resources throughout the city. These resources are varied, from supporting student learning to providing families with their basic needs. The directories provide families with tools to navigate systems outside of the schools to help foster self-sufficiency and help obtain academic, social, and economic support.

These guides are sent by the Office of Family and Community Engagement, and are done so both in hard and digital copies. The district also utilizes online platform to host the information. One challenge to these guides is ensuring that the information (hours, contact) is up to date. The district uses school volunteers to maintain this information.

While these guides are not an extremely involved program, they are very important tools for empowering parents to be informed of the resources that they can access, and allows families to self-advocate. This is especially important for many of the families who face economic or social challenges to attending school – having access to these resources help families to overcome said challenges and get the assistance needed.

For other districts who are considering this type of a program, Denver Public Schools offers several suggestions. First, they recommend checking to see if there is any existing material already in place in the community that could be built upon. They suggest creating a template that is easy to understand and provides all pertinent information for an organization. Becoming familiar with non-profits, businesses, and faith-based organizations around the community is important, as is establishing relationships with leaders of these organizations. Maintaining the guides as “live” documents also allows for information to be updated frequently. Finally, the district recommends having hard copies for those families who may not have computer access.