While families and school educators and leaders are essential for partnering, it is important that a third group not be forgotten as a critical component to building these partnerships – community members and organizations. Platte Canyon School District sees the importance of these parties and supports their engagement through the Community Service Organization Partnership Program.

In the Platte Canyon District, there are currently 15 partnerships established with local community organizations. These partnerships produce programs that directly benefit students and their families. One partnership, with the Platte Canyon Area Chamber of Commerce, has resulted in a scholarship for students, an adult education program, and a monthly newsletter for the school district. A second partnership with the Conifer Rotary Club has resulted in a literacy intervention and a program to give food to families who do not have enough. And a third partnership with the Bailey Outdoor Education and Recreation Association has resulted in a Frisbee Golf course and a newly developed trail system on formerly unused property, both utilized by the school and the community.

The community partnerships are linked to learning, building the capacity of families and community organizations, and building relationships among students, families, schools and communities. These partnerships lead to increased self-confidence while engaging students, parents and community members. They are linked to Colorado Academic Standards, and are evaluated by the district on an annual basis.

These programs help support students, families, and the school district in many different areas, and are very important when considering engaging community stakeholders and having them as an invested part of the school system.