

# Newcomer Parent Mentor Program

## Parent Engagement Network

Boulder, CO



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

School transitions can be very stressful for both students and parents. Schools have programs in place to support the transition for new students, but parents often need transition support as well.

The Parent Engagement Network (PEN) has extensive experience implementing *Parent Transition Programs*, connecting seasoned parents with new, incoming parents, offering support and assistance as new parents integrate into the school community.

The PEN Parent Transition Program is very flexible and can be adapted to fit the needs and resources of each school and PEN Team. Central aspects of the program can be enhanced through a variety of optional components, discussed in this guide.

A PEN Parent Transition Program Coordinator(s) serves as intermediary between Administration who seek transition support, PEN School Support Team who brings the expertise, and Transition Program Mentors who will be in direct contact with incoming parents. Steps and tools of the program are outlined in this guide and on-going support is provided by the PEN School Support Team.

Options for levels of support are below:

<b>LEVEL</b>	<b>COMMITMENT</b>	<b>PROGRAM OVERVIEW</b>
<b>Basic Level 1:</b>	Have limited time, resources and/or allies.	Limited number of parents, provide the program elements to large groups of new parents. <i>Limited personalization of program.</i>
<b>Mentor Level 2:</b>	Have more time and resource levels to increase program elements. Identified and committed Parent Mentors.	Have enough Parent Mentors for each person to reach a small group of new parents. <i>Increased contact, with opportunity for program enhancement.</i>
<b>One-on-one Level 3:</b>	Have time and extensive resources/committed parents to provide one-to-one support.	Parent Mentors provide 1:1 support for new parent and/or identified group(s) that need deeper, 1:1 support.

Both youth and parent involvement are highly correlated with student success, increased attendance, and decrease in risky behaviors. Parental stress about entering a new school environment translates to an increase in student stress. This program creates a warm and welcoming environment that decreases the stress experienced by parents, students *and* staff and thus helps students thrive.