

# Community Roundtables

Boulder Valley School District

Boulder, CO



The Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) values developing long term partnerships with community members and businesses. In order to highlight community resources, district staff organized a Community Roundtable. The overarching aim of this event is to build bridges between school counselors, community liaisons, teachers, and dozens of non-profit organizations that serve BVSD students and families. This event is an opportunity for educators to learn more about key partner organizations and to strengthen the relationships between them.

This event, which lasts for two and a half hours, is designed and coordinated by four major departments: family partnerships, mental health, early childhood education, and BVSD's McKinney-Vento coordinator.

The planning committee invited more than 25 partner organizations to present to educators in the areas of: Emergency Housing/Shelters; Food Security; Social and Emotional/Mental Health; Medicaid and County Health; Diverse Identities and Affinity Groups; Special Education; Adult Education & Career Services; Affordable Housing; Legal Services; and Community Health. In advance of the event, educators select the four areas that they would like to learn more about to determine the seating arrangements for all four sessions of roundtable conversations.

Each thematic area hosts a circle or roundtable in which a few representatives from these partner organizations deliver 2-3 minute elevator pitches providing an overview of how they serve students and families and then the remaining time is for our educators to ask them questions.

At the conclusion of the Community Roundtables morning, BVSD hosts a raffle and then ask both educators and community partners to provide feedback on all aspects of the event. The primary challenges in coordinating the event are securing a large enough space (the team has used a community church the past two years) and soliciting the thematic preferences of all participants.

Community Roundtable organizers spend 10-20 hours in the fall collaborating to prepare this event. Being proactive and clear in our communication with all stakeholders makes the event run smoothly and ensure it is beneficial for everyone. At the end of the event, educators are encouraged to think about two or three agencies that they want to prioritize deepening their relationships with on behalf of students and families. This event is invaluable because it sparks learning, forges connections, and leads BVSD students and families to access more of the resources within our community.