



At Boston K-8 in Aurora, family engagement is embedded within multiple school programs and goals. Boston K-8 staff want to make sure that families have multiple chances to engage in their child's academic success. As a very diverse school with 17 different spoken languages used among the student and family population, a major focus of Boston K-8 is creating a community that is empowered and connected and an environment where families feel welcome and part of a larger family.

Parent coffee meetings and other family events teach parents ways to become more involved in their students' academic success and how to help their students succeed academically. Through different literacy programs, parents have learned techniques to guide their child's reading at home, and students have had more books made available to them.

Cultural exposure and learning from each other has been a key component to bringing students and families together. Events hosted by the school include the Cultural Event, Holi Celebration, a Cinco de Mayo Celebration, a Talent Show and Show Case, and Literacy Night. These events and others give students and families opportunities to share and to be proud of their cultural differences, and encourage acceptance of one another. A better understanding of cultural differences throughout the Boston K-8 community helps students stay focused on their academics. Diverse friendships among students have flourished while discipline problems have been drastically reduced.

Boston K-8 staff has partnered with many different community members to share valuable information, programs, and resources with families. Partnering with Aurora Community Connections brought Cooking Matters courses to the school community, as well as assistance with SNAP applications and obtaining family insurance, parenting classes, and a folkloric dance team for students. Through partnerships with Second Chance Bicycle Shop and Wish for Wheels, over 90 bicycles have been provided to students and those with broken bikes have gotten them fixed for free. Boston K-8's partnerships with Soul Food, Food Bank of the Rockies, and local churches has also provided families with food throughout the year, and for over 80 families during the holiday season.

Boston K-8 staff strongly recommend making family engagement a yearlong practice so as not to lose momentum with engaged families and community partners. Offering a wide variety of events and resources connects the school, families, and community, and builds a trusting and nurturing environment for students to succeed in.