

# Crawford Community Center

Crawford Elementary School

Aurora, CO



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

Opening up your school for community use is an important way to build strong relationships with both families and the local community. By using Title III funds, asking for donations, and fundraising, Crawford Elementary School in Aurora is able to turn the school building into the Community Center after school.

The Crawford Elementary School Community Center is open to businesses and organizations that offer classes to families and students. The majority of classes are offered free of charge. The Community Liaison at Crawford Elementary attends a variety of meetings throughout the local community and offers building space to those interested. The Family Liaison and school administrators are also involved in the planning and implementation of the Community Center. Crawford Elementary also partnered with local churches, the Asian-Pacific Center, Toys for Tots, Sam's Club, and the Colorado Rapids.

While evaluation of the Crawford Elementary School Community Center is ongoing, it appears to be successful based on the participation of Crawford families and the consistent use of the building space after school.

Staff at Crawford Elementary have found that by providing access to the community for programs after school that benefit both Crawford and the community, communication between staff and families and staff and community partners has improved. Involving parents in the school in this way enhances how both the school and student learning is perceived, and strengthens the relationships between the different stakeholders.