

IND Family-School Partnership Flowchart

Independence Elementary School

Aurora, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

During the 2019-2020 school year, when the Covid-19 pandemic took place, the Principal, Community Liaison, and Social Worker of Independence Elementary School came together to design an online survey to know family needs during this difficult time. The outcome of this survey was amazing; the goal to connect and help Independence families during the pandemic reached beyond their expectations. Hand in hand with this, the Community Liaison designed a *Virtual Resource & Contact Center* for families to find and access resources available within Cherry Creek School District (CCSD) based on their needs. During the 2020-2021 school year, they created a formal committee to update the Family Needs Survey with consideration of the circumstances present at the time. Since then, both the survey and the *Virtual Resource & Contact Center* are continually updated. Information collected helps Independence staff modify, create and/or continue with all of the Family-School Partnership practices. Necessity and logistical needs were the starting points that led them to design the “live practice” represented in the **flowchart** called Family-School Partnership / See How We Work Together.

For almost three years, Independence has been following this practice. However, during the 21-22 school year, they decided to make a flowchart to show how they work together: the planning, programs, outcomes, people involved, and an overview of Independence Family-School Partnership culture. It also shows the visual process of the practice, how it facilitates changes and/or modifications needed every year to adapt to new circumstances. The description of it speaks for itself on the graph.

The practice represented on the flowchart (second page of this practice) is evaluated each year and has been a great success. The consistency of the programs, the partnership with families, and the community to support their students' success has streamlined the processes, making all involved more knowledgeable and efficient. There have been no significant challenges; instead, the practice helps Independence adapt to circumstances making necessary changes.

For other schools who might consider replicating this practice, this is the key: it is important that all people involved are on the same page to connect all the dots and to enjoy the process. Following this, the result will not be long in coming. The planning committee's advice to others wanting to replicate the event would be to start planning early to ensure families have plenty of time to prepare. Allot a materials budget and space for families to come and work on their projects. Invite community partners to come share in the festivities.

Family-School Partnership

See How We Work Together

