

Englewood Schools Family Resource Center

Englewood Schools

Englewood, CO



Englewood Schools is a small, suburban school district that serves approximately 2500 students pre-k through 12th grade. The district has a current free and reduced rate of fifty-five percent. Throughout the pandemic, the requests from our students and families for basic need items such as food and warm gear increased exponentially. These overwhelming needs led to the fast-tracking of the Englewood Schools Family Resource Center. The purpose of the Family Resource Center was to have a central location in the district where students and families could come to get supplies in addition to connecting with any additional resources that they may need. The Resource Center is set up like a store and regularly carries nonperishable food, hygiene items, baby supplies, school supplies, warm gear, and clothing. The center also receives wellness items such as jump ropes and bike helmets along with fun things to keep students engaged like books and board games. At the center, there is also a resource table where families can get connected to services in the community such as Arapahoe County's Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), Clothes to Kids of Denver, medical and dental support, and mental health service providers. In addition, the Family Resource Center is used as a hub for continuing family education and opportunities. The space has hosted Language Development Council for Multilingual Family Nights and serves as a space where McKinney Vento students and families can learn about programs that assist the unhoused.

The Englewood Schools Family Resource Center was established and is run by the District Family, School, and Community Liaison in partnership with the amazing donors from the Englewood community. The District McKinney Vento Liaison plays a role in servicing the district's unhoused students and families. Also, Englewood's Culturally Linguistically Diverse Education Family Liaison/District Translator is a fixture at the Resource Center on open house days.

Opening the Family Resource Center has had a tremendous effect on making sure that Englewood's most impacted students and families get the dedicated necessary resources to provide a level playing field amongst their peers. This support is needed to achieve equitable educational outcomes. For children, food insecurity and the lack of basic needs have been linked with a higher risk for adverse effects across multiple life domains, including a greater risk for lower academic performance (Feeding America, 2017; Winicki & Jemison, 2003) and negative health outcomes (Casey, et. al, 2005). The Family Resource Center provides students and families a space where they can get many of these needs met.

Englewood Schools Family Resource Center is new this school year. The district strives to make it the most accommodating and welcoming environment for students and families. There is constant communication between the staff that works out of the Resource Center with the stakeholders they serve. Discussions around items and resources needed as well as taking stock of what items are most frequently used help in the continual cycle of requesting and searching for new donations. One challenge that will be ongoing is the need for resources versus the donations that are received. Expanding partnerships and donors will be a continuous focus in order to sustain all resources and supplies.



Before starting to pursue a resource center, stakeholders should do a needs assessment to decide what types of resources and services they would like to provide and then make sure to have strong, long-lasting, viable partnerships in place.

Standard 3—Supporting Student Success
Essential Element 4—Dedicate Necessary Resources