

Academic Standards Nights

Denver Public Schools

Denver, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

Knowing what kind of academic support to offer children of different grade levels can sometimes be an overwhelming task for busy parents and families. To make this easier, Denver Public Schools holds Academic Standards Nights that help families understand the skills that students need to learn in each grade level. These nights also tell families how students in the classrooms are progressing, and provide families with activities that they can do at home with their children.

These nights are planned by school Parent Teacher Leadership Teams, and parents of all of the students in classrooms are invited to the presentations. “A Parent’s Guide to Student Learning” was created to outline examples of the Academic Standards that students need to know in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies in each grade level, and a training module was also developed to help families understand the standards.

These nights are significant for family engagement for a number of reasons. Families are given information on what their students are learning in the classroom and how they are progressing. They are also given activities that can be done at home in order to support student learning. Families develop goals to support learning at home, and are also able to access resources and services in the community.

This is a fairly new program that is still being developed, and has been piloted at two schools. The district is working on developing more reading, writing, and math activities with the help of educators, as well as resources that can be used during the presentations. They will be expanding the program to more schools in the future, and also plan to develop an evaluation tool to measure the impact of these nights, both from the perspective of the families and from student outcome data.