

Family Inspired Resources for Education

De Beque School District
De Beque, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

The De Beque School District serves a fairly small population of students and families in a small rural community. However, they still understand the critical part that families play in education and the importance of partnering between families and schools.

The goal of their increased family-school partnering practices is to work collaboratively to create an environment of empowerment, growth, and positivism. This includes implementation of a staff-developed, data-based family involvement plan which aids students, their families, and teachers in their professional practices. It also includes the use of a liaison that works with both families and schools.

Specific time is dedicated during teacher collaboration days for the liaison to share data about the importance of family-school partnering, as well as for parent involvement committees to meet. Staff activities focused on family involvement are also planned during this time. The staff developed a 'Parent Involvement Expectations Guide' for each staff member to use with notes on best practices.

These practices have also influenced the community. The program has shifted the community's perspective of the school, encouraging partnerships between school and community. The district reports that the team approach to education has been nothing but positive for the district and the community's interwoven relationships.

The district will continue their work on partnerships, as their focus for next year will be based on a survey that families and the community completed. Committees from the teacher collaboration days each developed a focus for next year in relation to their standards and the needs of the families.

Teachers have shared success stories, and have expressed a feeling of support and a shift into a team-like atmosphere. This new work shows a positive change in mood and support with parents, a shift to a more welcoming and engaging environment with shared respect and knowledge.