

Including School Goals in a Grant Process

Crest View Elementary School
Boulder, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

Multiple school teams include teacher and family representatives. Yet, often these teams struggle to work together, even though they work toward the same goal of student success. Crest View Elementary School has found a unique way for school-level organizations to partner by linking grant applications to school improvement goals.

Crest View’s Parent Teacher Organization, ReachOut Crest View, funds enrichment grants for teachers throughout the school year. In previous years, these grant applications did not have any connection to the goals of the school’s Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) or School Accountability Committee (SAC).

In recent years, however, the school Principal and grants committee of ReachOut Crest View implemented a new requirement for grant applications – they now must include a link to either one of the major improvement strategies from the UIP or a SAC goal. The Principal informed all teachers at the school of this new requirement.

By implementing this change, the grant activities that are funded now directly support the goals of the school. These goals are often related to student achievement, and so these grants are now able to more directly support improvement in student outcomes. While this practice hasn’t been formally evaluated, connecting the grant funds and the goals of the school has given the teachers a more clear focus for application. The grant committee also now has a clearer and defensible focus when making their selections.

Crest View has been able to sustain this practice through strong principal support and whole staff buy-in. This practice is an excellent example of how a school’s Parent Teacher Organization can work in conjunction with the School Accountability Committee.