

Community Resource Fair

Boulder Valley School District

Boulder, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

The Boulder Valley School District recently held a community resource fair for staff members who work most closely with parents. A variety of community agencies were represented, including Community Food Share, Mental Health Partners, the Emergency Family Assistance Association, Out Boulder County and Attention Homes. They gave overviews of the services they provide and answered questions, from whether they could help a school start a Gay-Straight Alliance for students who need more support (answer: yes), to the availability of affordable housing options (answer: limited and requires a one to two-year wait).

The resource fair is part of Boulder Valley's family partnerships initiative, led by director Madeleine Case. Every Boulder Valley school now has a family partnership representative who links families to support services.

The representative varies by school, but includes school community liaisons, school counselors, front office staff and teachers. "A lot of times, we're their first contact," said Emerald Elementary teacher aide Liz Miranda, who is also the school's family partnership liaison. "Sometimes, their pride stops them from going where they need to." The resource fair was set up in a "coffee circle" format, with agencies working on similar issues, such as food access, housing or special education, grouped together.

After providing an overview, representatives answered specific questions.

