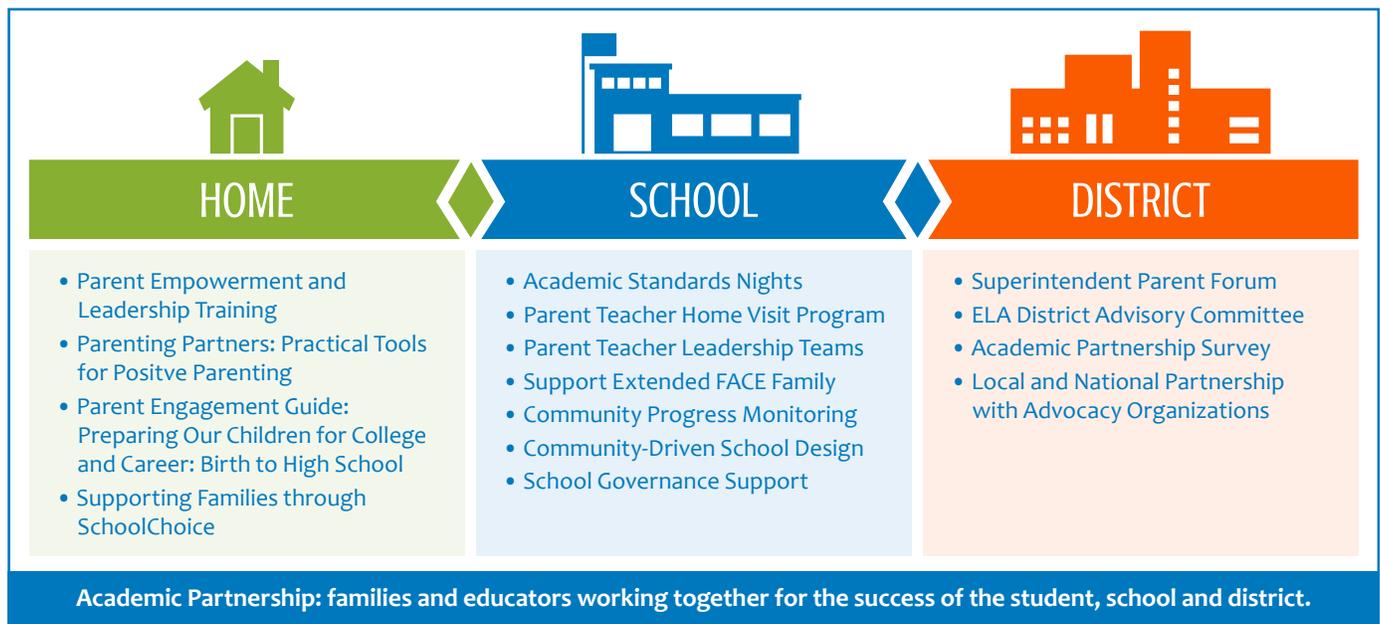




## Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Family Empowerment Team

The **Family Empowerment Team** is dedicated to fostering, developing and enabling the efficacy of academic partnership in our homes, schools and across the district. Research has continually found that family and community engagement in children's learning directly and positively impacts students' academic achievement and well-being. Utilizing proven best-practices, our team works at the home, school and district level to promote and implement specific programs and supports that increase student achievement:



### HOME

#### Family Leadership Institute

Every parent has the potential to be a leader. The Family Leadership Institute events help them unlock their potential for academic partnership and leadership through four sessions. These interactive sessions bring together families from all district schools to enhance their advocacy and partnership skills at the home, school, and district level.

#### Parenting Partners: Practical Tools for Positive Parenting

Knowing how best to support your students' social-emotional needs is a challenge, no matter the age. Parenting Partners teaches a research-based practice to all parents, with proven tools and skills that enable them to be actively engaged in and supportive of their children's education and well-being.

#### Parent Engagement Guide: Preparing Our Children for College and Career: Birth to High School

Every grade and every step is important to prepare a child for college and career. With parent-friendly language and must-know strategies, the Parent Engagement Guide provides families a clear and easy-to-use fold-out resource to understand the important role they play in preparing their children at each stage of their development (supplementary training available upon request).

#### Supporting Families through SchoolChoice

Few decisions are as important as deciding where to send your child to school. Our SchoolChoice support program helps ensure all families understand their priorities in searching for and selecting a school by guiding them with useful resources and supporting school tours.

"The Flamboyan Foundation is excited to partner with the Office of Family and Community Engagement at Denver Public Schools, clearly a national leader in the family and community engagement field. As we've worked with the Family Empowerment Team, it's become clear how much in common our work has and how imperative it is we work collaboratively to engage more families in school systems across the country. As our partnership and relationship has developed, we are excited to share our expertise while learning from their experience."

— Marcus Ware, Director of National Fellowships and Learning, Flamboyan Foundation

**FAMILY EMPOWERMENT TEAM VISION: Developing educated, engaged, and empowered parents and staff who are academic partners in creating great schools in every neighborhood where *Every Child Succeeds*.**

## SCHOOL

### Academic Standards Events

DPS believes that when families and schools effectively collaborate, students achieve more. Academic Standards Events close the gap between the home and school learning environments through sharing with families the skills and concepts that their children need to learn at each grade level and providing them with standards-based activities to reinforce those skills at home.

### Parent Teacher Home Visit Program

The foundation of strong academic partnership is a strong relationship between parents and teachers. The DPS Parent Teacher Home Visit program (PTHV), a national leader in home visits, supports educators, families, and students to put relationships first by coming together outside of the school environment to discuss their hopes and dreams for that student and establish a shared vision for success. In the 2015–2016 school year, Denver Public Schools educators conducted more than 9,000 home visits.

### Parent Teacher Leadership Teams

Schools decisions and choices should be advised by parent voices. Parent Teacher Leadership Teams bring families and school staff together to reflect upon and inform school decisions in pursuit of our shared goal of increasing student achievement.

### Extended FACE Family

Focusing DPS schools on family engagement best practice is essential for our collective success. The Extended FACE Family is a support network of school based staff charged with leading family and community engagement at the school level. Our team supports their efforts through 1:1 coaching, building distributive leadership

by supporting Lead Liaisons by network, a quarterly convening, adult learning experiences and sharing best-practice resources.

### Community Progress Monitoring

Families and communities have a right to know about their school's performance. We support schools and their leaders in sharing meaningful school data and performance trends through the Community Progress Monitoring process. Occurring throughout the year, these meetings are focused on attendance, behavior, credits and relevant assessment data and ensure our schools stay transparent and accountable to their families. Last Fall, our team supported over 120 schools that hosted meetings with their families, the largest engagement process in DPS.

### Community-Driven School Design

We believe schools should reflect the vision, priorities and the needs of the communities they serve. Community-Driven School Design supports school leaders in leading a design process with families to build a bold new plan for the school that lead a re-orientation of the school towards open and transformative partnerships with families and the community. This process occurs both in partnership with potential new schools and current schools revising their plans to revitalize their efforts.

### School Governance

Family voice in schools is a core belief of Denver Public Schools. We support and maintain resources for Collaborative School Committees (CSCs), Title 1 Parent Meetings and English Language Acquisition – Parent Advisory Committees (ELA-PACs). School leaders and other school based staff can access these resources and guidance tools to support their unique approach to bringing family voice into their school decisions.

## DISTRICT

### Superintendent Parent Forum

Educating and engaging our parents on key district priorities is a critical aspect of our work. The largest event organized by our team, the Superintendent Parent Forum occurs 5–7 times annually and engages on average over 300 families from schools across the district. Hosted by Superintendent Tom Boasberg and other senior leaders, the event seeks feedback from parents on key initiatives and then focuses on empowering parents to take materials and learning back to their school to engage other parents.

### ELA District Advisory Committee

Over 60% of DPS students are English Learners; we believe the voice of these students' parents is essential to our shared commitment to their success. To guarantee that their voices are heard and valued, we support the English Language Acquisition District Advisory Committee (ELA DAC). This leadership group comprised of culturally and linguistically diverse families helps inform district decision-

making and ensures their communities are equipped with the information, training and support they need to be active participants in all school and district committees, initiatives and events.

### Survey of Academic Partnership

In order to provide the most valuable and impactful resources and supports for our families, we need to recognize their areas of success and challenge. Through parents' self-reporting using our carefully designed tool, the Academic Partnership Survey allows us to effectively understand their levels of engagement in academic partnership across the home, school and district.

### Local and National Partnership with Advocacy Organizations

Our scale and depth of impact is only achieved through our collaboration with our essential partners. We involve key individuals and organizations in community meetings, processes and direct engagement in order to deepen and extend the impact of our programs.

## PARTNERS

The Family Empowerment Team works in collaboration with our national and local partners to research, fund and implement these best-practice programs.

