Super Saturdays

Highline Community Elementary School, Cherry Creek School District

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At Highline Community Elementary School, meeting families where they were was a priority, especially for those whose work schedules and responsibilities had made it difficult to participate in school activities during the week. While resources such as food, clothing, and school supplies were important, the time, care, and dedication invested in supporting families were equally valuable.

To address this, the school created Super Saturdays. The goal of these events was to strengthen family engagement, promote literacy, and connect families with available resources. Through the leadership of the librarian, families were invited to explore the library and learn how reading, listening to stories, and spending time with children around books could support literacy development. In addition, families were introduced to the school's wellness resources through the school's community boutique.

The boutique provided clothing, shoes, food, toys, hygiene products, and other essential items. Highline serves a diverse population, including families who face challenges related to food security, clothing, and other basic needs. Recognizing that many families may be hesitant to communicate their needs, staff worked to create a welcoming environment where support could be accessed without stigma.

The success of Super Saturdays depended on collaboration among teachers, staff, administrators, and volunteers. Multiple communication methods, including emails, text messages, videos, and flyers, were used to promote the events and encourage participation. The boutique was organized like a store, allowing families to shop independently and comfortably. This approach helped students and families feel respected while providing access to resources that supported both academic success and overall wellbeing.



The program's impact was evident through positive survey responses, written feedback from families, and recognition from district leadership. Families reported feeling supported, and staff observed increased trust and engagement among both students and parents. Challenges included recruiting enough volunteers to support both the library and boutique activities, which occasionally affected organization and efficiency.

For schools interested in implementing a similar program, gathering community input through surveys is highly recommended. Understanding families' scheduling needs and interests could improve participation and ensure the event reflected community priorities. Offering a variety of educational and resource-based activities could also create a welcoming environment that encouraged meaningful family engagement.