

Eagle County School District Engagement and Belonging Framework

How do we engage and inspire students to be active collaborators in their learning environments?

Foster Belonging - Amplify Student Voice - Examine practices and outcomes

Eagle County School District strives to create classroom environments that promote respect and kindness, fair access and opportunities for all, and high achievement for all students regardless of race, gender, economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, and exceptional needs.

Where all students and staff feel **valued**, **engage** at deeper levels, and **achieve** at higher levels without giving up who they are.

This process requires the development of ongoing **partnerships** between adults and students as co-creators of **compelling** and **vibrant learning communities**. With both district-level and school-level support, we develop sustainable structures, practices, and ways of being together.

Areas of Focus



Sense of Belonging for All Students and Staff

Our schools are places of intentional connection where students and staff feel respected and cared for, develop trust and rapport, learn and thrive together.



Diverse Student Voice

We seek to make decisions *with* students, not only *for* students. Diverse student representatives share responsibility in the direction of Eagle County School District and have a voice in decision making.



Examining Practices and Outcomes

We analyze our practices, and student and staff data in order to examine the experience and outcomes of the staff and students in our school district community.

Outcomes

Students and staff...

1. Have a greater sense of connection and empathy to self and others
2. Feel empowered, inspired, and involved as stewards of their school communities
3. Share ownership and power to positively influence school culture
4. Feel engaged, curious, and motivated to learn

District System of Support

Leaders, Educators, Staff, and Students work together as co-creators of inclusive and inspiring learning environments.

Key Structures:

- Sessions for adult leaders to collaborate as learners
 - ◆ Ad Team
 - ◆ Adult Stewardship Coalition comprised of representatives from every school
- Robust and representative coalitions within each secondary school who come together to form a district coalition
 - ◆ Stewardship [coalitions](#) formed first semester and meet monthly
 - ◆ Student leaders work with school administrators to plan and deliver some PLCs and participate in school committees
 - ◆ District coalition comes together three times in the second semester, ending with Listen Up! community engagement event
- Select Stewardship Site Schools
 - ◆ Schools who would like additional support opt in to becoming a stewardship site school
 - ◆ Beginning of year training for all staff
 - ◆ Ongoing individual support and coaching throughout the year
 - ◆ Co-facilitated PLCs on engagement and belonging by school, district, and consultant representatives
 - ◆ Immersive student experience

Themes of Learning *for adults and students*:

- Tone and Trust
 - ◆ Create soulful, inspired, brave, and inclusive spaces
 - ◆ Build new and powerful relationships
- Personal Culture and Story
 - ◆ Dive into stories of who we are and where we come from
 - ◆ Gain a deeper understanding of one another through our stories
- Converting Social Division to Justice for All
 - ◆ Learn about the dynamics of division
 - ◆ Explore systemic gaps
- Creative Resilience and Expression
 - ◆ Act as a steward by using your story as a tool for change
 - ◆ How to respond in moments of disagreement
 - ◆ Using arts-based methods to challenge injustice
- Stewardship in Community
 - ◆ Design opportunities to bring people together across difference
 - ◆ Addressing challenges with creative resilience over time

Engagement and Belonging Leaders' Roles

Leaders model and lead their schools in creating trusting environments where educators and students reflect and grow. They understand the diverse perspectives in their community and maintain an infinitely invitational approach to engage others to critically reflect on their practices, share their struggles and their strengths, and be more open to shift their beliefs and behaviors in the service of students.

District Leadership

- School Board
 - Review and revise policies to align with vision and goals
 - Encourage student perspectives to inform decision making
- District Leadership
 - Align district initiatives to promote engagement and belonging
 - Coach principals to be effective leaders for creating inspired and vibrant school communities
- Engagement and Belonging Coordinator
 - Coordinate district supports and professional learning
 - Collaborate with school and district leadership to create and carry out action plans
 - Co-facilitate student advisories with school-based leads
 - Facilitate adult team meetings
 - Develop relationships with student advisors and provide leadership opportunities

School Leadership

- Principal
 - Collaborate with your community to determine school priorities
 - design systems of support
 - engage staff and students in the process
 - monitor progress and make adjustments.
- [Engagement and Belonging Lead](#)
 - Collaborates with the principal on addressing school challenges and leading adult learning
 - Participates in monthly district gatherings for engagement and belonging leads to collaborate, learn, and lead together.
 - Manages student leadership opportunities including: stewardship coalition, student participation in PLCs, and student participation in school committees
- Teacher Leaders
 - Focus on classroom environment and culturally responsive teaching practices

Student Leaders

- Active participant in school-based coalition sessions
- Attend all district stewardship coalition meetings
- Attend at least one school board meetings