

UNITED FOR SCHOOLS



IMPACT AT A GLANCE



7

school partnerships



532

students in out-of-school time programs



44

parents completed technology training



68

parents engaged in school leadership groups

[United for Schools partners with local school districts and families to strengthen school-community partnerships with a primary goal of increasing grade-level literacy.](#)

Mile High United Way recognizes that for many students and families, school is more than just a place of education. It also serves as a community center which supports each child and family beyond the classroom. We partner with schools and parents to engage families, reduce barriers to attendance, and improve academic outcomes. The United for Schools team emphasizes out-of-school time programming as one way to support students in reaching key literacy goals. Our efforts are holistically designed to support the academic, social-emotional, and other developmental goals of each child we serve.

“This program strengthens our family even more... I love the confidence [the children] get, the exercise they get, and that they make friends.”

—KELLY, PARENT PARTICIPANT, UNITED FOR SCHOOLS AND BALÓN USA PROGRAM*

ENGAGING PARENTS

The United for Schools team fostered parent and guardian engagement in their children’s education through the implementation of Parent Teacher Leadership Teams at six schools. The individual teams considered ways to improve attendance, literacy, and address other unique challenges presented by the pandemic. Incorporating the parent voice to the school community critically impacts student outcomes. Through the Parent Teacher Leadership Teams, parents and guardians felt empowered to act as an advocate for their child, particularly at Garden Place Academy in Denver’s Globeville Elyria-Swansea neighborhood.

As the pandemic further disrupted the traditional school model for families, Mile High United Way distributed technology, such as laptops and mobile hotspots with unlimited data to alleviate the digital divide. United for Schools also offered one-on-one trainings to help parents facilitate at-home learning for their children and stay connected with teachers. These trainings were offered in English, Spanish, Pashto, and Dari.

CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIPS

In June, United for Schools concluded a seven-year partnership with Garden Place Academy and YMCA. The program experienced several evolution points, but consistently focused on out-of-school time and family engagement to improve children’s academic performance. “It taught us how to talk to our teachers,” one parent shared. “That’s what really helps: parents and teachers working together, building a strong community for the children.”



Mile High United Way partnered with Balón USA to offer a free out-of-school time soccer program for young children in four schools in Adams County. Parents are engaged in this bilingual program (Spanish and English), where they are compensated for time spent as coaches and referees. Parents and program leaders have called the program “life-changing,” saying their children and their families are more engaged with school as a result of their participation.

Based on the success of Balón USA in our partner schools, Adams 12 Five Star Schools intends to expand the program in the 2022-2023 academic year.

*Name changed for privacy purposes