

Open systems Institute

RootED

ELEMENTARY

GT program school, very competitive with my peers

Before DPS, went to private, white school

Felt little sense of community



Worst Things: No friends, isolated feeling

Best Things:

Affinity groups. Community/friends. To be honest, speech and debate.

6TH-7TH GRADE

I was a nerd.

Some homophobia

Very introverted and had a very hard time making friends

8TH-10TH GRADE

Awful

Sad every day

New school and no friends

No community

EMOTION



11TH GRADE

Do so many things

Affinity group for Asian people. Very helpful :)

So much community

LIFE Stage

DENVER EDUCATION VISION DROJECT JOURNEY MAP



STUDENT

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IMMIGRATION/ ELEMENTARY

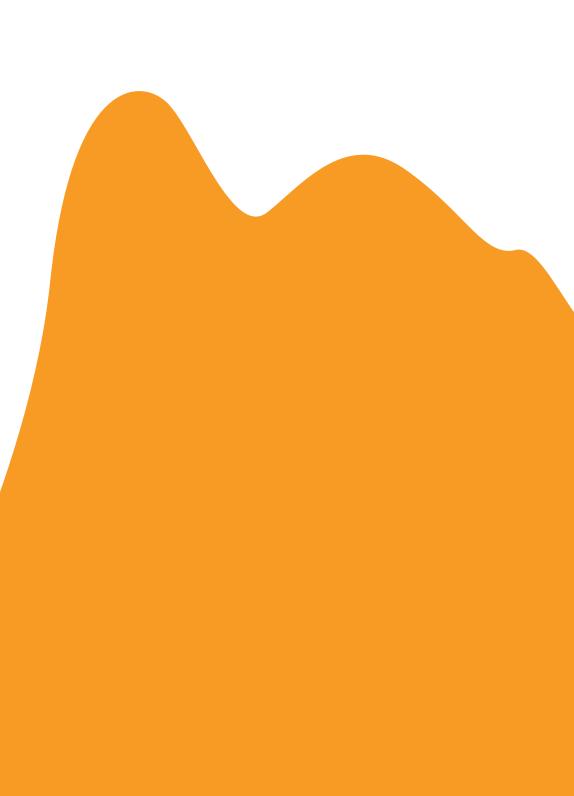
Language - learning it and communicating with people without having any knowledge. EL classes - not smart enough to be with the other kids w/o EL classes. Bullied for being quiet and "weird" because of how different I was. No ability to ask for help. No COMMUNITY.

Cultural - not used to physical affection: hugs, compliments and sleepovers. That American culture is alienating and not knowing other immigrant experiences that I did.



Pain Points:

Seeing students struggle with transitioning back to school. Seeing teachers be insensitive and students w/self harm, mental illness, drug use, loneliness and having a hard time on knowing how to help them. Resources for helping them not accessible.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Starting school with a little more confidence in communicating and belonging at school because I passed the admission process and piano playing with my skills to earn my place.

HIGH SCHOOL DURING COVID

Comfortable and better cause of efforts of unemployment and computers given to everyone.

Not feeling connected to my teachers and counselors a lot.

No resources for students caring for a parent having Covid with asthma or past health conditions worsening.

EMOTION



HIGH SCHOOL POST COVID

Still not connected to school community and neighborhood community.

College preparation and finding opportunities through school is difficult.

No POC teaches or counselors.

LIFE Stage



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ELEMENTARY

Support from teacher and classmates

Hard time to connect with other families, struggling with education system (lots of emails)

Frustration with the school choice

Difficulty for non-English speaking parents to coordinate playdates

Lack of transportation

It was a difficult time but I had support from teachers which helped me better manage the difficulties. Good communication with parents. The first years of school I call educating with love and human value

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Search for a school with educational and human quality near my house. Little discipline and student monitoring. Lack emotional support, frustration and discrimination during school. Lack of communication with parents. Difficult to make new friends. Struggled with Math and Writing. Some teachers speak too fast.

A lot of email!

HIGH SCHOOL

Lack of discipline; you don't have to work hard to pass or learn. Had to face bullying and experienced not having school support. Language barrier and lack of communication with parents. A lot of homework and hard time to make a project after school.

EMOTION

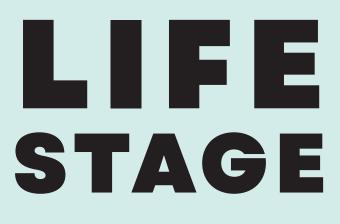


POST

Lots of frustration, confusion, and thoughts about the future

Making new friends

Hard time to integrate in the workforce





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9TH GRADE

Mental health services at school are lacking - online system is flawed.



Pain Points:

Failures of mental health services - not accommodating for struggling/mourning/outside issues. Services inaccessible, or students feel unwelcome when seeking them out.

Diversifying learning needs work - less teaching towards the middle, fewer tests, more projects, assigning work that is practical, applicable, not just busy work.

Better communication between teachers, students, parents, administrators.

10TH GRADE

Had to go to residential treatment - missed a month at school.

School tried to kick her out because she wasn't present.

11TH GRADE

High school has prepared her well for college, but mainly through extracurriculars playing an instrument, summer programs at colleges

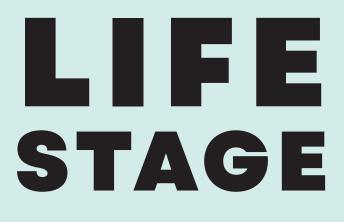
EMOTION



12TH GRADE

Mental/physical health has a lack of attention/care.

Teachers don't really look over learning plans to support students' different needs.





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PRE-K

Finding the right school Larger schools, public schools or Montessori recommended as better

Figuring out transportation

Individual 1:1 support for my son struggling in elementary school

ELEMENTARY

- Afterschool programs
- Lot of homework
- It will help him a lot if homework can do it at school

5-6 TRANSITION

Transportation because I moved

MIDDLE SCHOOL

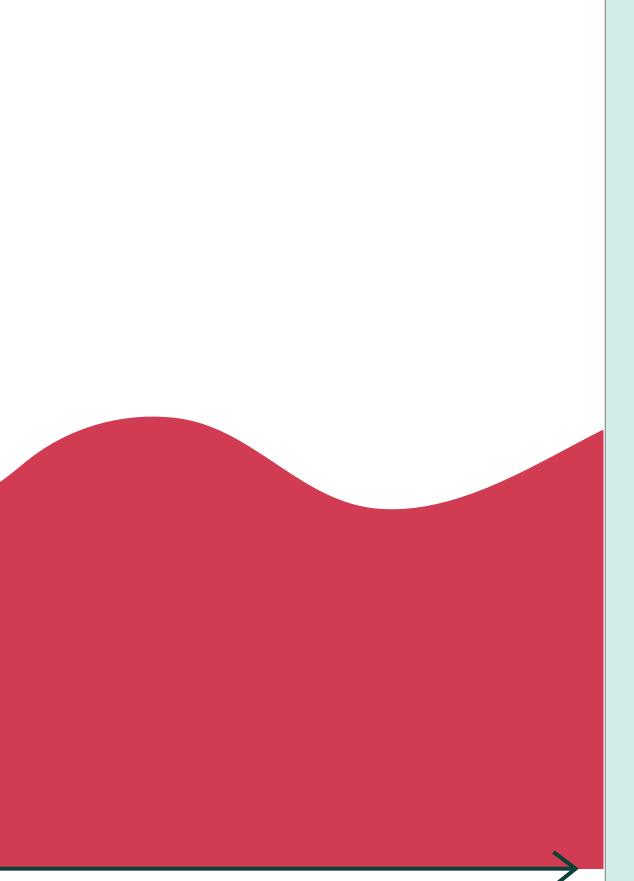
IEP classes since kinder. My experience until now is working. He improve every year because he had and still have very good teachers and they care for him. They want him to succeed, very professional, kind and understanding. Also they make a plan for the year so he can succeed.

HIGH SCHOOL

Not enough space for after school programs or classes like dance, art, etc.

Not happy with school (bullied her son by teachers), but at the same time, he has a counselor that helped him a lot.

The bullying was from teachers; the comment was, "you speak Spanish because you are Mexican." (He is from Argentina, also he was discriminated because of his skin color.)



EMOTION



POST GRADUATION

What to do

LIFE Stage

DENVER EDUCATION VISION PROJECT JOURNEY MAP



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ELEMENTARY

Moved to the US at 10 years old and spoke no English and went to a bilingual English-Spanish school

Struggled with the courses and language barrier

Loved the school, 4th grade teacher especially attentive.

Learned both languages in the span of 6 months

TRANSITION

Was already comfortable with my circle, and familiar with school and staff.

Middle school → shift, uncertainties

Moved again somewhat mid-year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Stepping out of comfort zone. Different friend groups, identity questioning

Started being more involved (leadership positions)

EMOTION



COVID

- Transitional period.
- Trying to find balance
- Really enjoyed online school
- Felt a strong sense of personal identity

HIGH SCHOOL

- Rigorous coursework
- Transportation difficulties to different internships and programs
- Lot of homework

LIFE Stage



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PRE-K

As a single/full time worker mother it was very hard to find information or help about child care

Pre-K was only 2 hrs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

No one in the pre-k public school had the right information about the elementary registration for kids

ELEMENTARY

Not enough transportation for all kids (solicitants)

Transportation too expensive for some parents.

Good communication between teachers-parents

Enough activities for kids (after school)

5TH-6TH GRADE

Too many activities for the kids

Group chat with teacher assistant - easy communication

EMOTION



MIDDLE SCHOOL

The new teachers started trying the kids as "old" teenagers or adults.

Lack of motivation

Not a good or fast response for bullying issues

Not a specific program about vocational or future careers for students

Reading issues

Teachers looked impatient when kids asked for help

No finding available seat in the bus even when the place was paid for

LIFE Stage



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ELEMENTARY

Struggled in math. Lack of support, no tutors to support students who were behind. Felt like there was little patience for students who needed extra help

Race conversations, rate hate in school Discrimination towards Muslim/Arab students.

Spanish-speaking at home, but not accepted at school by students b/c I was not "Mexican enough"

"Maybe she has ADHD"

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Transitioned schools
- Fights/trouble for alcohol
- Fairmont closing down → transition to GALS.
- Math teacher, Ms. H helped me with math. Encouraged me.

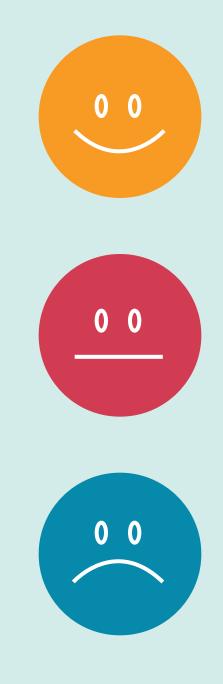
HIGH SCHOOL

Found AVID - a highlight. This was a college prep class. There was always support from my teacher and fellow AVID students. I learned about budgeting, credit cards, bank accounts, presenting in public, applying for work and college resumes. It was required to volunteer, apply for scholarships and take extracurriculars. I visited college campuses outside of Denver.

IB students were separated from the rest of the school

Standardized testing

EMOTION



POST

Dropped out of college. Lack of support and COVID-19. Felt unsafe. Similar feeling as during elementary school. LIFE Stage

DENVER EDUCATION VISION PROJECT JOURNEY MAP



PARENT

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ELEMENTARY

Faced with the task of choosing a school close to the house due to our work schedule

Figuring out transportation

5-6 TRANSITION

- This was hard for my daughter
- Missed her elementary friends
- Always complaining about the quality of the food
- Still wants to go to her elementary school even though she's not at that school anymore
- What is the criteria for gifted certification - I needed to know it

HIGH SCHOOL

Too much homework

Too much after school program

Struggling to keep up with homework/afterschool programs

Complaining about teacher's attitude (racism)

EMOTION



H.S. POST COVID

Too much homework

No help with completing homework

Kind of gets burnt out sometimes due to school activities

Negative influence at school

LIFE Stage

DENVER DUCATION VISION DROJECT JOURNEY MAP



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ELEMENTARY

White dominated, private catholic school. I always felt like I didn't quite belong and I experienced a lot of drama and negative social situations.

- *Social Cliques
- *Negative racial experiences



Pain Points:

Feeling a lack of belonging, social pressure, social cliques and expectations, negative social situations and racist situations with peers, teachers and administrators.

Joy Points:

Finding community, groups that I belonged.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

My first time at a new school and in a more diverse environment. Again, not so great social situations led to difficult mental and emotional environments that were definitely painful.

*social cliques

HIGH SCHOOL

This was definitely a transitional period from middle to high school but things were going well after joining extracurricular activities and finding community through groups and organizations/clubs.

*Social cliques but I had a space through sports groups so i felt less alone.

Finding community, groups, clubs, sports - people that cared about me and where I felt

EMOTION



H.S. POST COVID

The learning environment has definitely changed at this stage, and so has my mindset about the social environments I find myself in. It's still difficult because there is a frustrating lack of community, belonging and a sense of security within my school spaces by lack of support from teachers and school administrators and racist experiences.

I found a space through captaining the speech and debate team and I truly found a family because there were people who recognized my worth and abilities.

LIFE Stage



PARENT

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PRE-K

Too much homework for such a young age; my daughter was getting frustrated in her learning and had some challenges trying to learn new things

I even volunteer to be in the classroom to help her and I experience first hand that it seemed like a lot of work

ELEMENTARY

Stressful testing

They have testing 2x - one for practice and the actual testing. It creates a lot of stress for students b/c the students should already have learned what they are being tested on

ELD more equity

5-6 TRANSITION

- Worried about safety and the change of friends and influence of new friendships
- Not knowing if I chose the best school or not

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Communication with the teachers
- New friends
- Safety
- Student motivation/lack of

HIGH SCHOOL

Safety

Fights

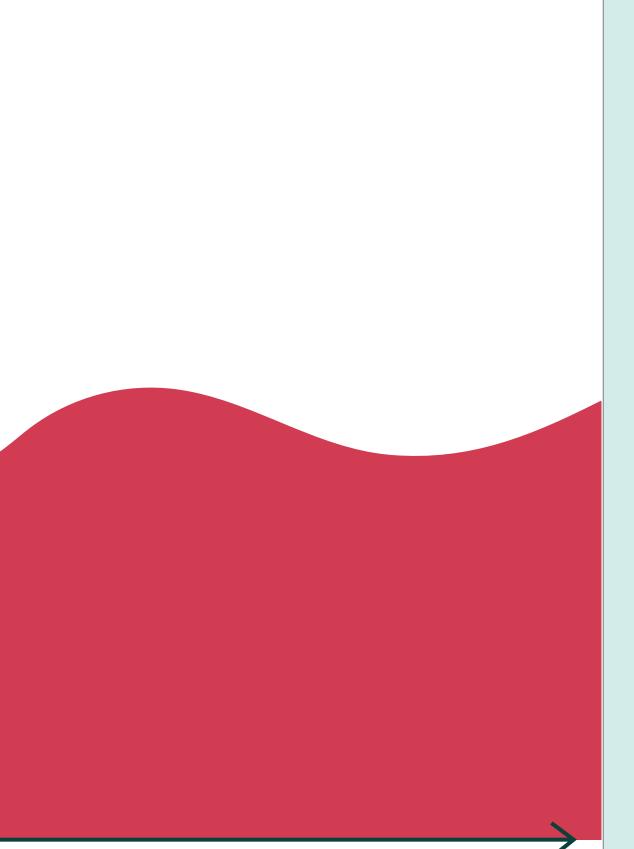
College planning and transition

Having more credits to easy off college work

Motivation

Inclusive programs to engage parents in college preparation, tools to better support students and college resources

More conversation regarding college cost for all students



EMOTION



POST GRADUATION

What to do

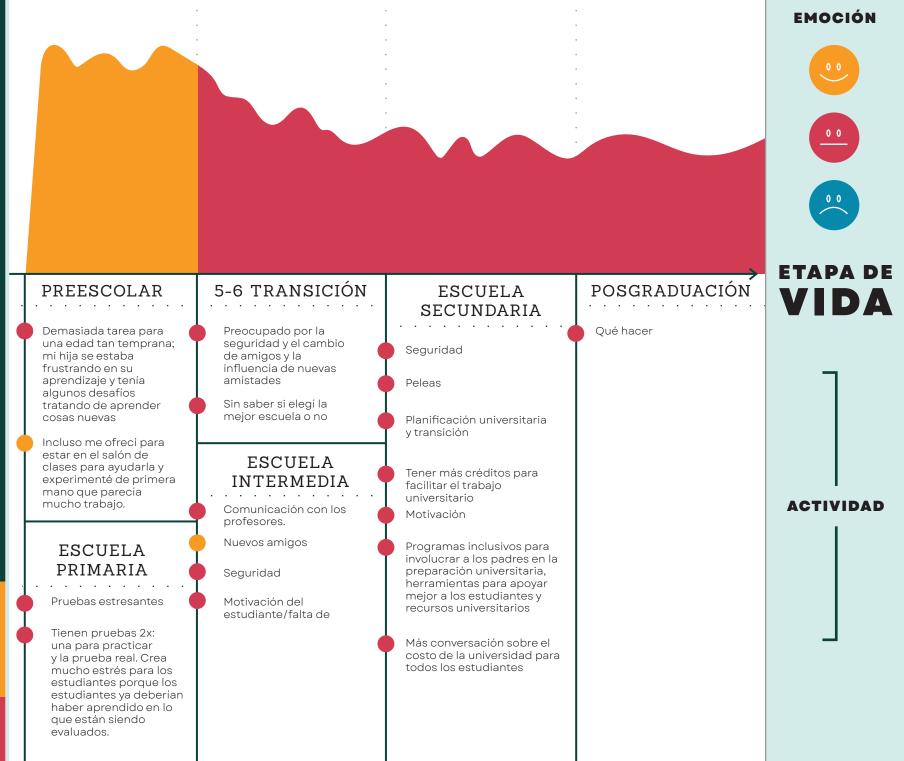
LIFE Stage

EDUCACIÓN EN DENVER PROYECTO VISIÓN

Sistemas abiertos

Instituto

RootED



ELD más equidad