



Home Visit Ride Along Guidance

Being trained and visiting with a partner are non-negotiable PTHV practices. On special occasions, schools and districts may wish to invite key decision-makers and other dignitaries such as superintendents, school board members, and legislators on home visits as a means to not only promote but deepen support and commitment to the practice. While encouraged, PTHV urges appropriate care and preparation for these special visits to ensure families' comfort and confidentiality.

Denver Public Schools was an early adopter of ride-along home visits. According to Don Diehl, a former DPS teacher and current PTHV trainer, it was a 2010 ride along visit with new Superintendent, Tom Boasberg, and a local television news reporter that changed the growth and trajectory of Denver's home visit practice. A local school, Fairview Elementary, had successfully implemented PTHV for 10 years but it never expanded to other sites. The new Superintendent's support and media coverage spurred enough interest for the district to invest \$50,000 and expand PTHV to four additional schools that year.

The practice of bringing school board members, area superintendents, and other administrative personnel, as well as engaging media outlets such as newspapers and radio, continues to be employed by enthusiastic PTHV educators across the district. As interest grew, so did district investment. Currently, DPS is an accredited PTHV partner district with 134 schools conducting more than 7,500 home visits in the 2020-2021 school year.

[See former Denver Public Schools Superintendent Tom Boasberg describing Parent Teacher Home Visits.](#)

Ride-Along Checklist – Pre-Visit Preparation

- The purpose of this special visit has been explained to families, and all questions have been thoroughly addressed. Families have been prepared for the visit and have provided explicit consent. Below are talking points to consider using when preparing families:
 1. Ask them if they would feel comfortable with the special guest visitor joining the visit.
 2. Offer thoughts to the family on why it would make a difference for the guest visitor to be there.
 3. Assure them that the purpose of the visit has not changed and that the guest visitor wants to build a relationship with families too.
 4. Assure them they are not being targeted for participation.
 5. Encourage them to just be themselves so that the guest visitor can get a true picture of their experiences, hopes, dreams, etc.
- Special guest visitors have been made aware of the purpose of the visit and the model's core practices. They are prepared and understand what to expect during PTHV home visits. Below are talking points to consider using when preparing guest visitors:
 1. Make sure that they understand the purpose of the visits.
 2. Prepare them to listen to and engage with families conversationally.
 3. Schedule more than one visit, if possible, so that families do not feel singled out.
- Home visit logistics have been confirmed.
- Local press has been engaged to cover the visit. Families have signed media release forms.

Ride-Along Checklist – Post-Visit Follow Up



- Home visit documentation has been completed and submitted per school or district guidelines. Educators have been compensated.
- Families have been formally thanked for their participation. They have been invited to share their experiences and become vocal advocates for home visits.
- Official follow-up correspondence has been sent to ride-along visitors that includes a message of thanks and concrete next steps to continue growing their support for the practice.
- Local media is monitored for coverage of the visit and shared through school and district communications channels.

Helpful Tools and Resources

- [PTHV Talking Points](#)
- [PTHV Research Fact Sheet](#)
- [Why Partnership?](#)
- [Funding Home Visits](#)
- [Sample Press Release](#)