

# SOAR Awards

Vivian Elementary School

Lakewood, CO



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

At Vivian Elementary School, rewarding the positive behavior of students is recognized as important for student success. Each month, teachers at the school nominate a student to receive the SOAR award. The letters each stand for a particular type of positive behavior: "S" stands for safe, "O" for owning their own behavior, "A" for achieving and academic excellence, and "R" for respectful behavior.

These awards are not just given to students, but are also celebrated publicly in the school. The elementary has a bulletin board in their main entrance hall that features the monthly winners. In addition, a small breakfast celebration is held with the Principal in the library, where the awards are presented to the students and they receive recognition.

Including parents and families is also an important part of this reward, as the parents of the awarded students are invited to attend the congratulatory breakfast and spend time celebrating with their students.

This type of recognition is important when supporting both student success and positive behavior. The students are very proud of their awards, and feel good about having their picture posted on the bulletin board. They are able to demonstrate their success to their parents when they come for the breakfast, and enjoy their success together. The awards process helps to strengthen connections between the families and the schools, and the families' involvement in their students' successes.