Allendale Elementary School’s Read to Succeed Night provides parents with an opportunity to learn how to both pick age-appropriate books for their children and how to foster a love of reading at home. The event aligns with the school’s Unified Improvement Plan, which focuses on improving reading performance for all students Kindergarten through 6th grade. Read to Succeed Night also encourages students and family members to read at home, particularly during school breaks.

Allendale Elementary School partners with the Arvada West High School track team, honors society students, and a local business. These community partners raise money for the school so they can provide books for students to take home and enjoy with their families. Once the books are selected by the reading interventionist, teachers, and family liaison, a brief reference guide is made for parents to use at home to help determine whether a book is appropriate for their child’s reading ability. Resource sheets are also provided on the school’s website for additional help and questions.

Read to Succeed Night begins with a free dinner for families. After dinner, families head to the gym where they are able to select several books to take home. Students then join one of their favorite teachers in a reading nook and listen to them read stories. Students can stay with one teacher or move from teacher to teacher. Volunteers dress up like book characters, such as the Cat and the Hat, and wander around taking pictures with students as they are reading or playing games.

Students are also encouraged to dress up as their favorite book character. All families go home with several new books and the tools to be successful readers at home.