

# Birthday Bag Celebration

## Rose Stein International Elementary School

### Lakewood, CO



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

Rose Stein International Elementary School was looking for new and exciting ways to share information about student's progress. As a result, the principal, community members, and parent volunteers partnered to create a Birthday Bag Celebration. The goal of this practice is to bring parents and guardians into the school to create a birthday bag for their child and engage and support learning and building connections between the community and school.

Rose Stein's family engagement liaison explains: "The birthday bags are a complete package that meet our goals to increase family engagement. Families are invited to make their child's birthday bag, which include everything from books to cake baking ingredients donated by community partners."

The bags aren't just a celebration of the students' birthdays. Academic and behavioral success is celebrated through a card that the student's



teacher writes. The teacher comments are specific to the child's academic growth and is another communication opportunity.

A side benefit of the Birthday Bags is improved face-to-face communication between teachers and families. Since instituting the program, school staff regularly receive thank you cards from parents saying how much they appreciate the project.

In order to carry-out the potentially costly project, Rose Stein's family engagement liaison recommends: "Reach out to multiple community members for donations so the program is sustainable and able to be offered school-wide."

