

RISE – Partnering for Student Success

Little Elementary School

Arvada, CO



RISE at Little Elementary in Arvada was designed for families to see how their students are learning and to make a connection to the curriculum being taught in the classroom. RISE is a one-hour meeting where families learn together in their child's classroom and walk away with take-home academic activities. The event was a great way for families to connect, get a window into the classroom, and understand how to support their child's academic growth.

Little's Family Engagement Liaison worked closely with the Title I RISE coordinator to plan and implement RISE. They met regularly beginning two months out from the planned RISE night to complete all tasks involved in presenting RISE to families. This planning included booking dinner, contacting and scheduling child enrichment activities for students, meeting with teachers to develop and practice their slides and activities, scheduling school staff to work the night of RISE, and ordering and organizing supplies. They developed a [planning template](#) that helped keep tasks manageable.

On the night of RISE adults gathered in their student's classrooms while students attended a child enrichment program provided by a trusted community partner. Families got to know each other through icebreakers, then teachers modeled a classroom lesson for families to see how the lesson is taught to students. This gave families tools to further their student's learning at home. All materials presented, including the take-home activities, were translated into families' preferred languages. There were also staff from the district's Translation and Interpretation Department present at RISE to interpret in real time. Afterwards, adults, students, staff, and community partners joined together in the school cafeteria for dinner provided by Little.

Attendees were provided with a Family Feedback Survey in their preferred language. These were collected at the end of the night. Families also emailed feedback directly to the Principal or Family Engagement Liaison. One challenge was staying within budget to feed over 400 people. Another was ensuring adults knew what to expect during RISE night and so staff developed a [brochure](#) titled, "A Families Guide to RISE." The family engagement liaison, the district RISE coordinator, and the school principal met after RISE to debrief where to elevate celebrations and make needed adjustments.

Anyone wanting to replicate the practice may contact Susie Kirvin in Jeffco's Title I Department. Be sure to request and confirm, well in advance, translation of all materials and interpretation services to ensure all families are given the chance to participate. Build time in the workday to regularly make sure planning deadlines are being met.

After attending RISE, one parent shared, "I got to see the actual lesson that teachers are teaching. I got to learn the strategies. And then I got to go home and reinforce them with my child. It was beautiful."

