



# Back to School Bash

## Alamosa School District

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As part of the Alamosa School District's Strategic Plan, one of the focuses continues to be community engagement. The goals of the Back to School Bash were to create lasting relationships between families, the school district, and community partners; assist families with school registration; provide students with free backpacks filled with supplies; and connect families with community resources. Every child in the district and their families were invited.

Planning for this event began early in the spring of 2024. The Alamosa School District (ASD) took the lead in bringing community partners together to begin building relationships to better serve students and their families. Those involved in the planning and implementation of this event included ASD staff, Shooting Stars Cultural and Leadership Center, Boys and Girls Club of the San Luis Valley, Alamosa Library, San Luis Valley Behavioral Health, Area Health Education Center, Adelante, San Luis Valley Interagency Oversight Group, and the Center for Restorative Practices.

The Back to School Bash was scheduled for July 29th, 30th, and 31st at three different locations in Alamosa. The event focused on the three most student-populated bus stops in the district. Families were greeted at each site by district administration personnel, secretaries, parent liaisons, and numerous bilingual volunteers who assisted students in registering for the 2024-2025 school year. Families were able to get free haircuts and received free backpacks filled with school supplies provided by the district and community partners. Families could then walk around Zapata Park, play in the bouncy house, meet with the district's superintendents and other community members, and enjoy a free hot dog and ice cream. In total, almost 600 backpacks were handed out.

Each family was given a QR code linking them to an evaluation that included a few brief questions such as, "What can the school district improve on for next year?", "Do you feel valued in the Alamosa School District?", and "What resources would you like to see offered next year?" Providing events at remote locations always creates challenges like access to electricity and Wi-Fi. Mobile hotspots and portable generators addressed these challenges.

Implementing events like this takes a lot of hard work, collaboration, and early planning. But for the ASD community, it was a great way to connect families to resources and create positive relationships between students, families, and schools from the very start of the school year.

