

Activity Boxes for Migrant Families

Weld Re-8 School District

Fort Lupton, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education



Weld Re-8 school district believes that parents are their children's first teachers. Parents empower their children to learn and grow, and this is a reason why the district purchased activity boxes to help families supporting their children's learning outside of school. The English and Language Development (ELD) Director purchased the activity boxes specifically for migrant families. The boxes

included activities, such as board games, art supplies, flash cards, letter tiles, and much more.

Weld Re-8 distributed the boxes in fall 2020 and again for summer 2021. This initiative gave parents an opportunity to use the tools in the box to strengthen their relationships with their children and practice reading, speaking, writing, and listening, all while having fun.

Weld Re-8 school district, in collaboration with the Centennial BOCES (CBOCES), met together to create a plan around how to distribute the boxes. The District Family & Community specialist and CBOCES representative made phone calls and personally delivered the boxes to their homes, explaining to families what activities were in the boxes. Personalized phone calls home is considered a high impact family partnering strategy that leads to positive student outcomes.

For the summer 2021 distribution, the district offered an in-person pick up date. For those families who were not able to make the pick-up, team members delivered the activity boxes to their homes. Each box included a letter with ideas on what they could do as a family with the activities.

Advice for colleagues wanting to replicate the program would be to designate individuals in the district who will work with migrant liaisons to help distribute boxes to families, preferably staff who are bilingual. It is also important to take time to personally call families rather than simply send home fliers and make robocalls.