



Dear FSCP Friends,

So many exciting things are happening in the world of family-school-community partnerships (FSCP) in Colorado, I don't even know where to begin!

About 75 FSCP leaders from 22 districts attended the two-day conference to learn more about Colorado's recently published [P-12 FSCP Framework](#). Attendees planned how to put systems in place at the district-level to support and system FSCP.

Colorado was also one of six states selected to develop a set of recommendations about what should be included in a FSCP preservice micro-credential. This is a two-year long project that will hopefully help Institutes of Higher Education to bolster FSCP in preservice programs.

Finally, ASCD recently published an [article](#) highlighting FSCP work in Boulder. Congrats, Ari! I am honored and humbled to be a part of all this exciting FSCP work in Colorado. Keep up the great work!

In Partnership,

*Darcy*

## UPDATES

Several FSCP events are on the horizon. Please share the dates far and wide and mark them on your calendars.

**January 22-February 21**, Teaching and Learning Conditions in Colorado (TLCC) Survey is open for completion. More information is [here](#) after next week's launch.

**January 31**, Applications due for seven SACPIE openings, including three parent representatives. View the applications [here](#).

**February 21**, 10-noon, Coffee Chat for district staff about FSCP structures and how to scale-up, Englewood School District. Register [here](#).

**March 20**, 10-noon, Coffee Chat for district staff, Westminster Public Schools. Register [here](#).

**FSCP Coffee Chats for 2019-20**, 10-noon, Third Friday of each month. Mark your calendars now!

For a more comprehensive list of announcements from CDE, you may [subscribe](#) to The Scoop, a newsletter published every Wednesday.

### FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERING STANDARDS

1

Welcoming  
All Families  
into the School  
Community

2

Communicating  
Effectively

3

Supporting  
Student  
Success

4

Speaking Up  
for Every Child

5

Sharing  
Power

6

Collaborating  
with the  
Community

# PROMISING PRACTICES

During the 2018- 2019 school year the Holly Ridge and Holly Hills Elementary School (located in Cherry Creek School District) family liaison hosted an annual parent coffee chat. The goal is to create a warm and welcoming environment with the intent of encouraging a more inclusive school community for every family. In attendance are the school administration team and the mental health support staff.

During the morning of the coffee chat, the family liaison transforms the school library into a relaxed and inviting atmosphere. Local neighborhood businesses donate a light breakfast for families and staff to enjoy together. Both Spanish and Arabic interpreters are on hand for families who need interpretation.

After breakfast, staff share a 20-minute PowerPoint about school and community resources. The family liaison highlights the various food, clothing, and shelter resources available to help families have their physical needs met. The administrators and mental health team then share a little bit about themselves before discussing signs to look for in times of crisis. The mental health team also provide their hours of availability to continue any conversation that require a more discreet setting.

Click [here](#) to read more Promising Partnership Practices.

# SACPIE SPOTLIGHT

Representatives on the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE) will use this column to highlight some of their FSCP work. This month's Spotlight is from RISE Colorado.

Educational inequity creates incredible challenges for low-income families and families of color. There are assumptions that low-income families and families of color do not care, do not value education, and are too busy to support their children. Marginalized students and families, especially from immigrant and refugee communities, continue to navigate inequitable systems that consistently omit their voices. They are the most impacted by educational inequity and therefore must be at the decision-making tables to lead the movement for change.

# RESEARCH BRIEF

The National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) recently partnered with Frameworks Institute to develop a [communications toolkit](#) to help us all rethink the way we communicate about family and community engagement so that people can understand it, appreciate it, and value it.

Part of this resource, based on best practice research, includes a list of recommends to "stay on frame." These recommendations include:

- Stick with the big story: This is about creating the *Conditions of Engagement*.
- Use the Space Launch metaphor to explain engagement concretely and memorably.
- Focus on *Opportunity for All* to promote engagement as an equity issue and a policy matter.
- Provide concrete examples of equitable family engagement practices that illustrate the barriers families may face and how to solve them.
- Engage education practitioners with an appeal to the value of *Interdependence*.
- Foreground the benefits to both students and teachers.
- Have parents talk about benefits to parents.

The online resource includes a set of examples and cheat sheets of each framing tip listed above.

The mission of [RISE Colorado](#) is to Educate, Engage, and Empower low-income families, families of color, and refugee and immigrant communities to RISE as change agents for educational equity in our public school system. RISE works to put those most impacted by the opportunity gap at the forefront of the movement for educational equity.

Families are powerful change agents and, with the support of organizations like RISE Colorado standing alongside them, they are transforming our public education system. Through knowledge building, organizing, and leadership development, students and families will end educational inequity. [You can learn more about RISE's work here.](#)

THANK YOU FOR SPENDING TIME WITH US THIS MONTH.  
WATCH FOR THE NEXT EDITION IN FEBRUARY.

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