



Dear FSCP Friends,

Family and School Partnership in Education Month, otherwise known as October, is right around the corner. This is a time of year to intentionally celebrate the importance of family-school-community partnerships.

One way to do this is by sharing and implementing the 2019 [Promising Partnership Practices](#). This year's edition contains 58 practices from schools and districts across Colorado. This resource is intended for anyone looking for ways to work with families for the benefit of students, including accountability committees, PTAs or PTOs, teachers, district staff...anyone!

Tracie Apel, Jeffco's Communications Specialist shares: "The promising practices booklet is a wonderful publication that not only showcases the best of our district's family engagement efforts but also serves as a resource for ideas and practical 'how-to's' for future initiatives."

In Partnership,

Darcy

UPDATES

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

Various September and October dates, District Accountability Committee trainings, for district and school staff who support DACs and SACs. Register [here](#).

October 3, Family and School Partnership in Education Month Kickoff, 6:00pm-8:00pm, History Colorado Center, everyone welcome. Register [here](#).

October 24-25, Equity and Excellence Conference, DoubleTree by Hilton, 3203 Quebec St. Denver, CO 80207. More information [here](#).

January 9-10, District Leaders Retreat, Cheyenne Mountain Resort, Colorado Springs. Register information forthcoming.

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

NOTE: Due to many districts having fall break, we will not have a Coffee Chat in October.

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

District 6, located in Greeley, has a District Family Center (DFC) that helps every family feel welcome and valued. Along with providing information and resources in the school district and community, the DFC partners with many organizations to provide opportunities for families:

- The DFC has partnered with the *Weld County Food Bank*, working together to provide students with weekend food during the school year through the Food Pack Program.
- The DFC set up a boutique through a partnership with *A Precious Child* so that items (e.g., household goods, clothing, hygiene products, & diapers) are available for families.
- A partnership with *The Immigrant and Refugee Center* has allowed the DFC to provide parent classes (i.e., English, GED, and Citizenship).
- *Cooking Matters* is a valuable partnership that allows the DFC to host cooking classes for parents during the day so they can gain some knowledge about nutritious foods and cost-effective ways to cook.
- The DFC has also been able to partner with the *Department of Human Services* to have a Community Outreach member at the DFC two days a week to help families apply for benefits or to answer questions.

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

RESEARCH BRIEF

The Institute for Educational Leadership recently published a [resource](#) about strengthening and sustaining family engagement through integrated, systemic practices. The article includes vignettes with practical strategies about how districts across the country are accomplishing this undertaking:

- District leadership champions and deeply values engagement, which is evident in how families and community are leveraged as assets.
- Policies, plans, and protocols contain clearly defined expectations and accountability for engagement across all levels of the district.
- Systems of support are in place to build capacity for district and school leaders and staff to meet expectations.
- Systems connected to the district's overarching goals and targets monitor engagement practice, measure outcomes, and assess impact.
- Engagement practices are integrated across departments, and there are structures to support collaborative efforts to ensure long-term sustainability.
- Engagement structures, goals, and practices are aligned to the district's strategic vision, goals, and targets.
- Time and resources allocated for engagement are aligned to provide sustainable support and coherence.

SACPIE SPOTLIGHT

During the 2019 legislative session, the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education's (SACPIE) was reauthorized for another five years. Part of this reauthorization included adding more parents to the 23-member Council. SACPIE will now have one parent per congressional district.

As a result, the Council is seeking applications for parents of students in early childhood through higher education who live in congressional districts 5, 6, and 7.

SACPIE was established in 2009. The Colorado General Assembly found that it was in: "...the best interests of the state to create a **state advisory council for parent involvement in education** that will review best practices and recommend to policy makers and educators strategies to increase parent

involvement in public education, thereby helping improve the quality of public education and raise the level of **students' academic achievement throughout the state.**" (C.R.S. § 22-7-301(2))

The [application](#) is due to Darcy Hutchins by September 23. Scroll down to the first news item for more information and a copy of the application.

SACPIE meetings are held quarterly and are open to the public. The next meeting is located at MindSpark Learning in Englewood, CO on November 19 from 9am-3pm. For more information about SACPIE, click [here](#).

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

For questions, contact Darcy Hutchins, Director of Family Partnerships, hutchins_d@cde.state.co.us, 303-866-5921

