



Dear FSCP Friends,

Isn't it nice to be on the other side of January and February? Now that spring is right around the corner, I believe it's time to celebrate.

Most importantly, it is time to celebrate the good work you're doing in the sixth edition of Promising Partnership Practices. The one-page narrative is due to me by May 29th. I am 100% confident that every single person this newsletter reaches has a practice to share. Please encourage others to submit as well. I want to be blitzed!

Second, a HUGE congratulations to Edmondson Elementary in Thompson School District, and Colorado as a whole, for being [featured in an article](#) about partnerships. The [Washington Post](#) picked it up and published a shorter version earlier this week.

Thank you for all the work you do to support family-school-community partnerships. Our schools and stronger and our students have greater success because of your 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.

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

April 1, Census Count Day. For more resources than you can possibly imagine, click [here](#).

April 17, 10-noon, Coffee Chat for district staff and school family engagement liaisons, Aurora Public Schools. Register [here](#).

May 29, Promising Partnership Practice submissions are due. Application submission form is [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

The New America School in Lakewood serves over 300 students from all over the world. The school participates in home visits with the goal of welcoming families into the school, facilitating communication around re-engagement, and building relationships to ensure student success.

Home Visits are usually scheduled ahead of time with families via phone. Most visits include a discussion with students and families about the importance of school attendance. The team and families discuss challenges of attending school as well as share ideas and jointly make a plan to improve attendance and engagement.

The New America School has had positive feedback on surveys as well as everyday interactions with students and families. Families and students have expressed that home visits are a great opportunity to have conversations around other supports to motivate them to continue their education. “At first, we were not really open to the idea of having someone from the school come to our home. But after that first visit, we know that they have my daughter’s best interest at heart and they value her as a young mom and believe in her,” said a grandmother.

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

SACPIE SPOTLIGHT

Colorado Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is getting back to basics and focusing on our mission: to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. We know that every student and family need to know how to get the resources they deserve.

Family and community engagement is more than lip-service: it is transformative, inclusive, and powerful. We are working with our schools to identify under-represented students and families and how we can work together to lift their voices and welcome everyone to the table.

To help increase family engagement, National PTA launched a podcast this year called [Notes from the Backpack](#). Each 30

RESEARCH BRIEF

It comes as no surprise that attendance is a critical component to student success. But what role do family-school-community partnerships play in combating chronic absenteeism? The simple answer is, a lot!

Harvard University recently published an [article](#) summarizing current research studies across the United States about how schools and families can work together to improve student attendance.

Researchers found that student attendance improved after schools sent **personalized letters to families** stressing the importance of regular attendance. Specifically, chronic absenteeism was 14.9% lower among students whose families received a personalized letter from the school about attendance.

Home visits are another high-impact strategy that increase attendance. Researchers at Johns Hopkins University [found](#) that students whose families participated in a home visit had 21% lower odds of being chronically absent compared with students whose families did not participate in a home visit.

Home visits and personalized communication from school-to-home are two high-impact strategies with a proven track record to improve attendance.

For more information and resources about how family-school-community partnerships can help decreased absenteeism, visit the [Attendance Works website](#).

minute segment offers unique perspectives from experts, parents and educator guests giving real-life advice and ideas on supporting children’s education and development.

Colorado PTA is also working to promote the 2020 Census – please help spread the word that participation is critical, safe, and secure. Children are the most undercounted group and they are the ones who will be impacted the most over the next ten years. We all count – make sure we’re all counted!

Want to join PTA as a member or partner? Go to [copta.org](#) for more information.

Nora Brown
Colorado PTA President

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

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

