

FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERING

THE FSCP KEY



COLORADO
Department of Education



Dear FSCP Friends,

Another school year is in full swing and I'm certain this will be our best year to date for family, school, and community partnerships (FSCP). Here's why I have reason to hope.

The 2021 collection of [Promising Partnership Practices](#) is filled with high-impact examples of how schools and districts are working with families. I shared this publication with many other states and national organizations who are very impressed with all of your work!

Next, CDE will be doubling capacity within the FSCP Office in the next month! I feel so fortunate to be able to hire a [FSCP Specialist](#) to bring partnerships to scale within Colorado.

Finally, with the influx of ESSER funds, we all have an amazing opportunity to strength FSCP as a strategy to reengage students, combat learning loss, and address students' mental health needs. I encourage you to continue advocating for your sites to thoughtfully integrate FSCP throughout your policies, procedures, and plans. I'm just a phone call or email away if you have any questions!

In Partnership,

Darcy

UPDATES

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

September 10, 11:59 pm, FSCP Specialist position closes. View the job posting [here](#).

September 14, 5:30-6:30pm, SAC/DAC Networking Series. Topic will be about stakeholder engagement on the Unified Improvement Plan. Open to anyone currently or interested in being on an accountability committee. Register [here](#).

September 17, 10-noon, Coffee Chat for district staff. This virtual meeting will be about district-level leadership. Refer to the Zoom link in your calendar invite.

October, all month long, Family and School Partnership in Education Month. More information forthcoming.

FSCP Coffee Chats for 2020-21 school year, 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

Centaurus High School, located in Boulder Valley School District, launched a positive phone call initiative during the Covid-19 pandemic. The primary aims of the One Call at a Time project were to deepen student engagement and strengthen ties with families by recognizing students through phone calls made by school and district-level leadership. In the second half of the school year, the high school made more than 200 positive calls.

All call notes and relevant contact information were documented on the spreadsheet. If any specific time-sensitive information was shared during the call, the team member contacted the principal and school counselor. To support greater two-way communication, families were also encouraged to contact the staff for any support. Any student could be nominated for a positive call home, but the overarching focus was on students who had recently made some type of improvement.

The short calls made a notable impact. One mother said, “I really appreciate the call. I needed this today. My son is going to be glowing.”

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

SAC/DAC ON TRACK

The Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) is moving to an earlier public posting deadline—October 15 for all schools—in order to better align with plan implementation. Because of this change, accountability committees will need to revisit when and how they engage with the improvement plan. Use this transition opportunity to ask your committee :

- What is the purpose of the improvement plan in our schools?
- How is the UIP utilized?
- How should stakeholder feedback be gathered, integrated, and revisited?
- Who else besides the committee should be providing feedback?

RESEARCH BRIEF

The [Parent Teacher Home Visits](#) (PTHV) organization recently published a [Toolkit for Healing and Recovery](#). The authors state that effective, authentic home-school partnerships do not happen in a vacuum. They require certain conditions to be met and actions to be taken.

The recommended Framework within the Toolkit consists of three conditions essential to partnering with families effectively:

- Build Education Capacity and Resilience.
- Build Trust with Families.
- Create a School-Wide Culture that Prioritizes High-Impact Family Engagement.

These three conditions align perfectly with the Four Essential Elements of Colorado’s [P-12 FSCP Framework](#):

- Create an Inclusive Culture.
- Build Trusting Relationships.
- Design Capacity-Building Opportunities.
- Dedicate Necessary Resources.

Both the PTHV Toolkit and the CO FSCP Framework have tools for staff and families to use to create conditions for effective and efficient home-school collaboration. Both Frameworks include guiding questions and recommended activities for staff to use when working with every family for positive student outcomes.

Committees should plan to give feedback on next school year’s plan beginning in March/April. The rest of the year should include progress monitoring, updates, and recommended modifications. For more guidance on committee timelines, visit the [SAC DAC Timeline resource](#).

For those who are interested in learning more about how to engage stakeholders in the improvement planning process, we recommend you attend the [SAC/DAC Networking Series](#) on September 14th from 5:30-6:30pm. Please share this opportunity with all of your accountability committee members as well.

Contact [Lisa Steffen](#) or [Darcy Hutchins](#) with any other SAC/DAC questions you have or supports you may need.

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

For questions, contact Darcy Hutchins, Director of Family, School, Community Partnerships,
hutchins_d@cde.state.co.us, 303-562-8175

