



Dear FSCP Friends,

Two weeks ago, the Office of Family, School, and Community Partnerships (FSCP) hosted its inaugural *FSCP Leadership Think Tank*. About 30 people from 13 districts that participate in a Collaborative Cohort gathered together in Granby to discuss how FSCP can be more fully integrated into plans, policies, and procedures.

The [FSCP P-12 Framework](#) was the foundational document for our time together in Granby. These districts, and many others across Colorado, are using the Framework to inform their systemic partnership work. To date, the Office of FSCP is facilitating three Collaboratives, with at least one more set to start next school year.

If your district is interested in participating in a Collaborative Cohort, reach out to Jes or me. We'd love to have you join! Onward to a productive February and May.

In Partnership,

Darcy

UPDATES

Several FSCP events are on the horizon. Please share the dates far and wide and mark them on your calendars. Also consult the [FSCP Year-at-a-Glance](#).

Ongoing Self-Paced Courses. Available for free [here](#).

February 13, 9-2, State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education Quarterly Meeting. MindSpark Learning. Open to the Public.

February 15, 9-11:30, High School Learning Cohort for current cohort participants. Contact Jes for more info.

February 15, 1-3, Principal Learning Cohort for current cohort participants. Contact Darcy for more info.

February 16, 10-11:30, Coffee Chat for district staff about mindsets. Join the zoom meeting [here](#).

March 15, 10-noon, In Person Coffee Chat with a hybrid option for district staff. Location TBD.

March 21, 9-10, FSCP Office Hours. Everyone welcome especially new FSCP contacts. Join [here](#).

Regional Collaborative Networking Meetings, various.

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

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

School District 49 currently serves approximately 1500 English Language Learner (ELL) students. The goal of the home visit program was to support newcomer families with navigating the school system and to be the bridge between the school/district and the family. Another goal was to help students be successful not just academically, but in all aspects of their acclimation to the community.

The CLDE Family Liaisons worked in conjunction with several school staff. Once the team learned more about the family, communicated with the family, and determined specific needs, the team then worked to acquire resources for the family. These ranged from basic need resources such as food and clothing, to academic or mental health support such as tutoring, homework support, credit recovery, connections to mental health organizations, etc.

Through parent surveys, families have shared their appreciation and gratitude for the connections created through the home visit and communication strategies, especially for the help they have received in working with the schools and acquiring needed resources. The schools have also expressed positive feedback regarding the impact these services have had on their students and families.

[Click here](#) for more examples of Promising Partnership Practices.

RESEARCH BRIEF

Communicating clearly, openly, and regularly encourages families to form strong, trusting relationships with their children's educators and encourages the view that schools are family-friendly. If there is one domain that will have a substantial impact on student success, it is trusting relationships between educators and families.

Research has found that parents often have a more positive perception of their children's academic performance than what is accurate; a trusting relationship with teachers ensures that parents have the right information and resources to understand their child's performance and support him or her (Mapp & Henderson, 2022).

Teachers may benefit from additional training on how to effectively communicate in order to build relational trust (Mapp & Henderson, 2022). Such training can help shift teacher mindsets and help them understand families' daily realities and challenges. Over time, relational trust can impact test scores and school culture, as well as teacher practice and larger school reforms (Bryk & Schneider, 2002).

Relational trust consists of respect, competence, integrity, and personal regard for others. By prioritizing these four elements in two-way communication between teachers and families, a strong partnership is formed that is centered on students' development and academic outcomes.

SAC/DAC ON TRACK

One of accountability committee's primary legislated responsibilities is to partner with families in planning. This may be through the Unified Improvement Plan, through updating the district's family engagement policy, through the budget process, etc.

The Office of Family, School, and Community Partnerships recently publish a [guiding document](#), aligned with the [P-12 FSCP Framework](#), with tips for schools and districts to consider prior to partnering with families. These tips are aligned with the Framework's Four Essential Elements.

Create an Inclusive Culture

- Offer multiple ways and opportunities to engage.
- Invite diverse perspectives.

Build Trusting Relationships

- Simplify and personalize communication.
- Illuminate family and community assets.

Design Capacity-Building Opportunities

- Integrate assets of all stakeholders
- Illumination importance of dual capacity-building.

Dedicate Necessary Resources

- Prioritize meaningful stakeholder engagement.
- Utilize community partnerships.

Your friends at CDE are here to answer your DAC/SAC questions and provide supports as needed. [Peruse this website](#) at your leisure and reach out to Darcy with any questions.

THANK YOU FOR SPENDING TIME WITH US THIS MONTH.
WATCH FOR THE NEXT EDITION IN APR/MAY.

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

