

2024 Annual Report State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education

Submitted to:

Colorado State Board of Education
Colorado Commission on Higher Education
Colorado House Education Committee
Colorado Senate Education Committee

By:

The State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education

Jess Welch, Chair

Dr. Angie Frank, Vice Chair

Prepared by:

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December 2024

The State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education is staffed by the Colorado Department of Education.

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The State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE) is a legislated body of diverse stakeholders charged to advise state organizations and school districts on issues related to increasing parent involvement in education. The premise is that by promoting family-school partnerships, the quality of public education will improve and the level of students' academic performance throughout the state will increase (C.R.S. § 22-7-301 and C.R.S. § 22-7-304). This responsibility specifically includes involving families in programs to increase high school and college graduation rates, decrease drop-out rates, and close the achievement and growth gaps between learner groups in the state. A list of the current SACPIE membership and the groups they represent can be viewed in Appendix A.

Pursuant to Senate Bill 13-193, the purpose of this report is to outline SACPIE's progress in promoting family-school partnerships in the state and in fulfilling its legislated duties. This report includes a description of SACPIE's structure and membership, a list of advisory duties, 2 SACPIE's progress in fulfilling those duties, and next steps.

SACPIE Structure and Membership

The 26-member council, along with Colorado Department of Education (CDE) support staff, meet quarterly. In 2024, the February, August, and November meetings were held in person for five hours each, with a hybrid option. The May meeting was held virtually for 2.5 hours. Each meeting has time dedicated to organization presentations and member resource sharing, which support the council's primary legislated responsibility to learn and share about best practices of family partnerships.

In 2024, the Colorado General Assembly reauthorized SACPIE. The reauthorization added a representative from the Colorado Department of Early Childhood. It also revised some advisory duties to better reflect current practice and added two new advisory duties:

- Advising educator preparation programs about best practices for including researchbased family engagement strategies in coursework and program requirements (C.R.S. § 22-7-304(1)(h)).
- Providing feedback to state agencies and other organizations about publicly available tools and resources that assist families with navigating the education system (C.R.S. § 22-7-304(1)(i)).

The Council has an Executive Committee, comprised of the SACPIE Chair, Vice-Chair, and the CDE Director of Family, School, and Community Partnerships. The purposes of the Executive Committee are to:

- Plan SACPIE meetings;
- Lead SACPIE meetings;
- Recruit and interview new members; and

 $^{^{}m 1}$ In an effort to align state and national language, based on current research, this report uses the word "family" as opposed to "parent" and "engagement" or "partnering" instead of "involvement." This is done purposefully to be more inclusive and suggest a higher level of collaboration beyond involvement. ² C.R.S. § 22-7-304 outlines 16 recommendations for advisory duties and technical assistance for SACPIE to conduct in Colorado. This report includes the recommendations that SACPIE is currently implementing.



Check-in with current members who may have questions or have missed a meeting.

In 2024, the SACPIE Executive Committee filled four vacancies. A copy of the SACPIE parent member application can be viewed in Appendix B. This basic application is adapted for other representatives when vacancies for other membership roles arise on the council.

The Council continued to work with State Board of Education (SBE) liaison, Rhonda Solis. Board Member Solis attended every council meeting, shared SBE updates, and answered questions from Council members. She regularly included information about family, school, and community partnerships during her report at state board meetings.

SACPIE's operating procedures state that each year, the council will select a Chair and Vice Chair. Jess Welch, a member of a statewide organization that represents charter schools, was elected to be the Chair and Angie Frank, a parent representative from Congressional District 6, remains the Vice Chair.

The council continues to align its work with the Vision and Mission, updated in 2023:

- Vision: All students' life goals are met through family, school, and community partnerships.
- Mission: To inform and advise educational systems on best and promising practices that support family, school, and community partnerships.

At the August 2024 meeting, SACPIE decided to focus its advisory duties on an over-arching theme for the 2024-25 school year. After a full-day planning meeting, members came to consensus that this year the group will focus on helping the field improve relational trust between home and school. The Council is using the relational trust scale from the Six Global Lessons on How Family, School, and Community Engagement can Transform Education as the research base (Morris & Nora, 2024, p. 107-122).

SACPIE Advisory Duties

Advisory Duty: Creating and implementing programs to effectively involve parents in improving of state and national research conducted in this area (C.R.S. § 22-7-304(1)(a)).

SACPIE is driven by research and data. To that end, the council aligns its work with the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships (PTA, 2022) and references those standards in its resources and presentations. SACPIE also aligns its work with the Dual Capacity-Building Framework, a document published by the U.S. Department of Education in April 2014 and updated by Dr. Karen Mapp in July 2019.

SACPIE has identified resources for practitioners from nationally recognized organizations, including:

- The Center on School, Family, and Community Partnerships at Johns Hopkins University;
- The Center for Universal Education at Brookings Institute;



- The National Association of Family, School, and Community Engagement; and
- The Flamboyan Foundation.

In 2024, SACPIE worked with CDE to expand the collection of Promising Partnership Practices from schools, districts, early childhood programs, and Institutes of Higher Education across Colorado. Over 45 sites submitted a practice for the 10th annual publication. Each practice is aligned with the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships and Colorado's Four Essential Elements.

The Communications Division at CDE started sharing the Promising Partnership Practices every week in a recurring social media post named Family Engagement Friday. SACPIE members promote these posts by sharing and commenting in their own social media accounts.

"Resource Sharing" is a regular agenda item at every SACPIE meeting. This is an opportunity for members to share family, school and community partnership (FSCP) programs from their organizations and to form and deepen partnerships with their fellow SACPIE colleagues. About 75 percent of current SACPIE members reported creating a new partnership that supports families in various programs as a result of this sharing opportunity in meetings.

Advisory Duty: Involving parents in programs to raise academic achievement, increase high school graduation rates, decrease student dropout rates, and close the achievement and growth

SACPIE satisfies this advisory duty by regularly sharing high impact family, school, and community partnership (FSCP) practices with the constituents they represent. Council members regularly include information from meetings in their organizations' newsletters and through social media posts.

SACPIE is committed to building capacity in school personnel and families to partner for student achievement. To this end, SACPIE regularly encourages family participation in programs that promote student success. For the 12th year, in November 2024, the Governor declared November as Family and School Partnership in Education Month. School districts and organizations across the state shared the proclamation with boards, educators, families, and community members.

Finally, in 2024, CDE's Director of FSCP had the opportunity to share SACPIE's work at conferences and on panels, including:

- The American Education Research Association Annual Meeting in April 2024 (approximately 50 participants)
- The Brookings Institution Global Symposium in June 2024 (approximately 80 in-person participants and over 500 virtual participants)
- The United States Department of Education Family Engagement Symposium (approximately 50 in-person participants and over 850 virtual participants)
- The National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement Inaugural Assembly panel and breakout session (approximately 100 participants)







Advisory Duty: Increasing parent involvement in education-related committees at the local and state levels (C.R.S. § 22-7-304(1)(e)).

Per legislative requirements, four of SACPIE's eight parent representatives must serve on a school or district accountability committee. In 2024, six of SACPIE's parent representatives served on a School or District Accountability Committee (SAC or DAC), many of which served on multiple committees. These council members take information from SACPIE back to their local accountability committees to strengthen implementation.

Four parent representatives are helping SACs in their districts ensure that families constitute the largest group on the team (per legislative requirements) and that families and school staff have the tools to effectively partner. This support generally occurs through personal invitations from the school to work with the SACPIE parent representative.

One Council member who represents a statewide organization shared that she uses the structure of SACPIE as a model by which to create and support her organization's advisory council, which includes parents as the majority group.

In May 2024, one parent representative participated in a panel for the 1241 Task Force to share promising practices and common challenges about implementing accountability committees in rural settings.

Advisory Duty: Advising educator preparation programs about best practices for including

In recent years, SACPIE has focused its higher education work on providing feedback to educator preparation programs about skills preservice should learn to partner with families. In 2024, CDE, CDHE, and Fort Lewis College entered its fifth year of preservice educator work. In 2020, Colorado was selected, by the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) as one of seven states to be part of a Pre-service Family Engagement Consortium. This consortium, ended in 2022 with the culmination of the Educator Preparation Framework for Family and Community Partnerships, has both national and Colorado-specific implications.

For the past four years, CDHE, CDE, and SACPIE convened monthly Community of Practice (CoP) meetings with education preparation program (EPP) faculty and staff to continually discuss and improve FSCP in prep programs. Each meeting consists of a promising practice presentation from someone currently working in the field, opportunities for Q&A, and sharing updates. CoP members select the topic and co-present with the featured guests.

In 2022, six IHEs that regularly attend the CoP meetings, worked together to submit a grant proposal for NAFSCE's Family Engagement and Educator Preparation Innovation Project. This grant was awarded to Colorado in December 2022.

In 2023, from January to June, CDHE and CDE staff worked with seven Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs) to develop two surveys; one for families and one for classroom teachers. These surveys are intended for EPP staff to use to elevate the parent and teacher voice about how



preservice teachers should be trained to partner with families and the community. The seven IHEs are:

- Colorado Christian University;
- Colorado College;
- Colorado State University, Pueblo;
- Fort Lewis College;
- University of Denver;
- University of Northern Colorado; and
- Western Colorado University.

In July 2023, Colorado was awarded a second grant to complete a pilot of the surveys. The purpose of this pilot is to test the validity and reliability of the instrument. The surveys were completed in April 2024 and are available to any EPP or alternative certification program in Colorado looking to change how they prepare preservice teachers to partner with families. In addition to English, the parent-facing surveys are available in Arabic, Russian, Somalian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Advisory Duty: Providing feedback to state agencies and other organizations about publicly available tools and resources that assist families with navigating the education system (C.R.S. § 22-7-304(1)(i)).

In 2022 and 2023, in partnership with CDE, the U.S. Department of Education awarded two Colorado nonprofit organizations with the Statewide Family Engagement Center grant. Colorado is the only state in the country to have two grants. These five-year, multi-million dollar grants provide added support to CDE, districts, schools, and households for implementing high-impact FSCP strategies. Each grant is required to have an advisory council that consists of mostly parents. In 2024, SACPIE served as an over-arching advisory body for both grants.

The Council also provided feedback to other organizations and state agencies throughout 2024, including:

- Colorado's 1241 Accountability, Accreditation, Student Performance, and Resource Inequity Task Force (CDE, Feb 2024 meeting)
- HB 22-1376 District Profile Reports (CDE, Feb 2024 meeting)
- Track Growth Reporting and Technical Assistance (CDE, May 2024 meeting)
- CDE's Every School Day Matters Attendance Campaign (CDE, Nov 2024 meeting)
- Student Engagement (Center for Universal Education, Nov 2024 meeting)
- Building Ecosystems Statewide for Thriving (BEST) Youth Initiative (Nov 2024)
- Completing and sharing various family-facing statewide surveys (e.g. CDE website improvements, state education funding, chronic absenteeism)

After SACPIE's breakout session at the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement's Assembly in October 2024, a representative from Texas' Department of Education asked to observe a SACPIE meeting in an effort to create a similar council. This individual attended the November 2024 SACPIE meeting as a member of the public.



SACPIE was included in CDE's strategic plan over the course of 2024. Beginning in 2025, SACPIE members will have an opportunity to provide feedback on and co-create family-facing resources to help increase student engagement.

Advisory Duty: The council shall inform, at a minimum, the early childhood councils and the early 304(1)).

At the November 2023 SACPIE meeting, CDE staff from the Office of Elementary Literacy and School Readiness, sought feedback about a family-facing website that provides information about the transition into kindergarten. This staff member incorporated SACPIE's feedback and published the family-facing website in 2024. This staff member attending the February 2024 meeting to share the website.

Advisory Duty: Initiatives to increase admissions to institutes of higher education and the

The Council's representative from the Colorado Department of Higher Education regularly shares updates with SACPIE about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and the Colorado Application for State Financial Aid. SACPIE members then share this information with their constituents.

Advisory Duty: The council shall work with the department to provide regional training programs minimum, the training programs must address parent leadership and increasing parent engagement with school district accountability committees and school accountability committees, including best practices for parent engagement with school district accountability committees and school accountability committees (C.R.S. § 22-7-304(3)(b)).

SACPIE members continue to share the course entitled: Understanding the Role of School Accountability Committees. Council members share this free course broadly. To date, 232 people have enrolled in the course (up from 95 people in 2023) and 47 people have received certificates of completion (up from 18 in 2023).

SACPIE continues to provide feedback about CDE's SAC and DAC website. The website provides resources for SAC and DAC members aligned with their statutory responsibilities. SACPIE and CDE staff are also collecting promising practices about committee functioning to assist other schools and districts across the state to support and sustain membership.

During the November 2024 meeting, five SACPIE members volunteered to serve on an ad hoc committee to work with CDE staff to revise the SAC/DAC website. This will be a significant undertaking during the first half of 2025.

Advisory Duty: The council shall work with the department to provide regional training programs for school districts and charter schools concerning best practices and skills for district and school personnel in working with parents (C.R.S. § 22-7-304(3)(c)).



SACPIE and CDE collaborated to plan and implement regional trainings for Family Partnership Liaisons, SACs and DACs, and other interested school and district stakeholders about promising practices and skills in working with families. The overall purpose of the trainings was to help schools and districts implement comprehensive, sustainable structures for student success. The four components of this structure are:

- The Framework of the National Family-School Partnership Standards;
- Sharing leadership;
- Action planning; and
- Evaluation.

Historically, these sessions were held regionally for any interested stakeholder group. Over time, as need and readiness in the field evolved, training sessions now occur by invitation from districts and organizations.

In November 2024, CDE staff published a Trail Map for Schools to implement systemic family, school, and community partnerships. This how-to coincides with the trainings outlined above. SACPIE members provided feedback on the website and have shared it through their channels of communication.

Based on feedback from the field, CDE staff created a new website that highlights research-based FSCP initiatives. The Continuum of High-Impact Strategies website includes Colorado's Promising Partnership Practices and resources to help school and district staff implement activities that are proven to impact student outcomes.

Advisory Duty: The council, in consultation with the department of education and the education and use the indicators to develop recommendations for methods by which the department of education and the department of higher education may measure and monitor the level of parent engagement with elementary and secondary public schools and with institutions of higher education in Colorado (C.R.S. § 22-7-304(4)).

Colorado's Preschool-12th Grade FSCP Framework and corresponding User's Guide and Rubrics continue to guide and strengthen partnerships across the state, with SACPIE's assistance. The purpose of the framework is to develop systemic and sustainable state- and district-level structures that integrate and elevate FSCP, leading to positive student outcomes and an inviting school culture.

SACPIE, along with many other stakeholders across Colorado, worked with CDE staff throughout the process to provide feedback and help draft a statewide FSCP definition and four essential elements for district-level staff to implement to improve partnering for student outcomes. Below is the definition and an overview of the essential elements.

FSCP Definition:

Families, early childhood programs, schools, and communities actively partnering to develop, implement, and evaluate effective and equitable practices to improve educational outcomes for children and youth.



Essential Elements:

Create an inclusive culture that honors the lived experience of families in early childhood programs and/or the school community.

Build trusting relationships that enable families and programs/schools to partner about the education outcomes for children and youth.

Design capacity building opportunities for staff and families that promote shared leadership about educational outcomes for children and youth.

Dedicate necessary resources that integrate and elevate partnering practices to scale.

The rubrics, developed in collaboration between CDE, SACPIE, and Johns Hopkins University, serve as a tool for schools and districts to identify FSCP starting points and measure progress. Dozens of districts across Colorado are implementing the Framework to guide their FSCP work. In the past, district-level staff were the primary audience for this resource. In 2023, based on feedback from SACPIE and the field, CDE staff partnered with colleagues to create rubrics for school staff, district staff, families, and community organizations.

In 2022, the Center for Universal Education (CUE) at Brookings Institute partnered with the Colorado Department of Education to globalize the P-12 FSCP Framework and Rubrics. Eight countries on five continents piloted the current iteration of this Framework. This resource, based on SACPIE's feedback, was published in March 2024.

Next Steps

SACPIE will continue to increase and broaden the implementation of its legislated responsibilities in 2025. These efforts include, but are not limited to:

- Providing feedback to Colorado's two Statewide Family Engagement Center grantees;
- Gathering resources that support implementation of Colorado's Family-School-Community Partnerships Framework in conjunction with CDE's strategic plan;
- Working with CDE staff to revise the SAC/DAC website;
- Implementing trainings for SACs and DACs about family recruitment, retention, and participation on accountability committees in collaboration with CDE;
- Collecting and publishing promising practices from schools, districts, and organizations across Colorado;
- Working with the Department of Human Services and the Department of Early Childhood to foster effective family-school partnerships, particularly in early childhood education;
- Working with national and international FSCP leaders and researchers to continue to bring high-impact FSCP resources to Colorado; and
- Seeking additional opportunities to promote family-school partnership practices in Colorado, particularly as it relates to improving relational trust.







SACPIE Membership 2024

SACPIE Membership 2024			
Member Name	SACPIE Role	Organization	Congressional District of Parent Representatives
Roxanne Aviles	Parent Representative serving on a school or district accountability committee		Congressional District 4
Kim Chatman	Parent Representative serving on a school or district accountability committee		Congressional District 1
Brooke Coté	Parent Representative serving on a school or district accountability committee		Congressional District 5
Beth Donahue	Colorado Department of Education—Exceptional Student Services Unit	Colorado Department of Education	
Twyla Esquibel	Representative from Higher Education	Colorado Department of Education	
Dr. Angie Frank, Vice Chair	Parent Representative serving on a school or district accountability committee		Congressional District 6
Kate Garvin	State-based nonprofit organization specializing in promoting the involvement of families of traditionally underserved populations	Keystone Policy Center	
Dr. Kris Greer	Representative from higher education	Teacher Education Department/Fort Lewis College	
Heidi Haines	Nonprofit organization that specializes in promoting the involvement of families of students with disabilities	Rocky Mountain Down Syndrome Association	
Chelsey Hall	Representative of the department of human services appointed by	Colorado Department of Human Services	







	the executive director of said department		
Sena Harjo	Representative of the department of early childhood appointed by the executive director of said department	Colorado Department of Early Childhood	
Nathan Hickman	Colorado Department of Education—Federal Programs and Supports Unit	Colorado Department of Education	
Sherrell Lang	Parent Representative serving on a school or district accountability committee		Congressional District 3
Jenny Lerner	Colorado Department of Education-Migrant Education Program	Colorado Department of Education	
Mary McNeill	Expertise in early childhood care and education	Denver Great Kids Head Start	
Carrie Olson	Statewide organization that represents members of school district boards of education	Colorado Association of School Boards	
Ami Prichard	Statewide organization that represents parents and teachers.	Colorado Parent Teacher Association	
Mark Sass	Statewide organization that represents teachers	Teach Plus Colorado	
Jason Taylor	Statewide organization that represents school executives	Colorado Association of School Executives	
Stacey Vanhoy	State-based nonprofit organization specializing in promoting the involvement of families of traditionally underserved populations	Home Visit Partnerships	
Jess Welch, Chair	Statewide organization that represents charter schools	Charter School Institute	
Liz Wilson	Parent Representative serving on a school or district accountability committee		Congressional District 2





Michelle Zeles- Hahn	Parent Representative	 Congressional District 8
Vacant	Parent Representative	Congressional
	serving on a school or	District 7
	district accountability	
	committee	
Vacant	Nonprofit organization	
	that partners with	
	funding providers, state	
	agencies, and service	
	providers to assist	
	organizations in	
	providing services to	
	improve the health and	
	well-being of families	
	and children	
Vacant	Statewide organization	
	representing school	
	counselors	

SACPIE Advisory Members and CDE Support 2024	
Name	Organization
Dr. Darcy Hutchins, SACPIE	Colorado Department of Education-Office of Family,
Staffer	School, and Community Partnerships
Rhonda Solis	Colorado State Board of Education







SACPIE 2024 Parent Membership Application

2024 Application for State **Advisory Council for Parent** Involvement in Education

Overview of SACPIE

On behalf of the Colorado Board of Education, the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE) invites applications from candidates to fill three (3) Parent Representative vacancies. Two of these vacancies are for parents who currently serve as the parent representatives on a District Accountability Committee (DAC) or School Accountability Committee (SAC).

In accordance with SB09-090, 22-7-301 C.R.S., the Council has been charged with the task of informing public education entities concerning best practices and strategies, aligned with National Standards for Family-School Partnerships, for increasing parent involvement in public education and promoting family and school partnerships in order to help improve the quality of public education and raise the level of students' academic achievement throughout the state.

As required by State law, parent membership appointments must be filled by parents of children who are:

- 1) Enrolled in a publicly funded preschool program; or
- 2) In any of grades kindergarten through twelve; or
- 3) In a state supported institution of higher education;
- 4) Who represent student populations that are significantly represented in the state.

As required by State law, the State Board of Education, in appointing members to the Council, shall, to the greatest extent possible, select persons who will reflect the gender balance and ethnic and racial diversity of the state and will provide representation from throughout the state.

Membership appointments will begin in December 2024 and continue for three years, with an opportunity to continue for another term.

Application Summary

Applications are due November 1, 2024 to Darcy Hutchins (hutchins d@cde.state.co.us).

Complete applications should include:

- ☐ Contact and Background **Information Form**
- ☐ Statement of Interest
- ☐ Current CV, Resume, or Background Summary
- ☐ Contact for Two References





SACPIE Responsibilities

Time Commitment. Members are expected to be active participants in the Council and attend at least 75% of monthly meetings in the metro Denver area, or by audio conference call-in. Meetings are currently held quarterly on the third Tuesday of February, May, August, and November from 9:00am-2:00pm.

Compensation. SACPIE members can be reimbursed for mileage and meals (related to SACPIE business) and some required activities (e.g., trainings for the field).

Application Process. Completed Applications must be submitted to Darcy Hutchins by November 1, 2024 (hutchins d@cde.state.co.us; 303-562-8175).

Please see the SACPIE website (http://www.cde.state.co.us/sacpie) for more information about the Council.

Application Checklist

Completed Contact Information/Background Form
Completed Statement of Interest
Current Curriculum Vitae, Resume, or Background Summary
Contact Information for Two References



Contact and Background Information Form

SACPIE Application (Please Type)

Contact Information

	First Name:	
	Last Name:	
	Preferred Title	
	(Mr., Ms., Mr.,	
	Dr.):	
Γ	Mailing	
	Address:	
L	Email Address:	
	Phone	
L	Number:	
L	Gender:	
	Ethnicity:	
	Congressional	
	District of	
	Residence:	
	Child's Grade:	
_	Child's School:	
	Congressional	
I	District (if	
L	known):	
Committee (Do you plan Ref	(DAC)? Yes to do so in the ferences	n a School Accountability Committee (SAC) or District Accountability No future? Yes No ract information for two references that would be able to speak to
skills	s/tasks needed	of SACPIE applicants.
Fi	rst Name:	
La	ast Name:	
	urrent Title:	
	rganization:	
	mail Address:	
	hone	
	umber:	
∣ Re	elationship:	







First Name:	
Last Name:	
Current Title:	
Organization:	
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	
Relationship:	

Statement of Interest

Provide a brief description of why you are interested in serving on the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education. The response should not take more than one full typed page. Type your response below:

Return of Applications

Please email applications to Darcy Hutchins at hutchins d@cde.state.co.us and note in the subject line: "SACPIE Application." Emailed applications are preferred.

All applications and supporting material must be received at the email or U.S. mail address above no later than 5:00 p.m. November 1, 2024. Questions regarding the application process may be directed to Darcy Hutchins at 303.562-8175.