



Dear FSCP Friends,

I have some questions for you that have been on my mind recently. Have you ever walked into a school that didn't have a literacy curriculum? A math curriculum? An attendance policy? The answers are likely "no, of course not."

Here's my next question: Have you ever walked into a school (or district) that didn't have a family, school, and community partnership (FSCP) program? Slightly different response, eh?

While having a set of academic standards and an agreed-upon curriculum is commonplace in education, having a set of FSCP standards and intentional program is far less common, yet just as important. In fact, it can improve all other areas of student achievement!

This FSCP Key touches on the notion of **capacity** and **will** as two critical components of policy implementation. What can we do to increase capacity and support the will of all stakeholders so that FSCP becomes as commonplace as any other aspect of education? Food for thought!

In Partnership,

Darcy

UPDATES

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

February 8, 9-11:30, State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education Meeting. Contact Darcy for more information if interested in attending.

February 8, 5:30-6:30pm, SAC/DAC Networking Series about budgets! [Here](#) is more information.

Now-February 18, Make sure to take the [TLCC Survey](#). Family Liaisons are now included in the survey!

February 18, 10-noon, Coffee Chat for district staff. Dr. Britt Lane from CDHE will discuss preservice and in-service FSCP trainings. Join the zoom meeting [here](#).

March 18, 10-noon, Coffee Chat for district staff. Weld RE-5J will be sharing their reframing communication tools. Join the zoom meeting [here](#).

May 2-3, Cheyenne Mountain Resort. Rescheduled District Leaders Retreat. Registration available soon.

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

Thompson School District (TSD) believes in creating a welcoming environment, a feeling of hope, and a sense of belonging. In order to determine how welcoming the environment at TSD schools truly is, the Family, School, and Community Partnership (FSCP) Specialist at Lincoln Elementary School developed an Environmental Scan.

The FSCP team at Lincoln created a survey that serves as an environmental scan tool, rating the school environment on criteria such as inclusive representation, organization, clear signage, positive and consistent messaging, and availability of resources. Families and staff complete the survey, which is available in English and Spanish.

The tool begins with a pre-assessment to establish a baseline, then includes sections for stakeholders to provide feedback on the building grounds, lobby/main office, hallways, classrooms, and website. Participating stakeholders share their perceptions on an iPad for ease of data collection and use. The information is then analyzed to better understand how stakeholders perceive the building's environment and implement changes as needed.

Some advice to anyone who wants to implement this practice is to intentionally select people from different departments and with different backgrounds to ensure feedback that adequately represents the stakeholder groups of the school.

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

SAC/DAC ON TRACK

During the January SAC/DAC Networking Series, attendees discussed analyzing Local Data, with insights from School Improvement and Planning team member Dr. Lauren Hesse. We reviewed data types (state and local standardized assessments, perception data like surveys, system information like calendars, bell schedules or attendance), the role of data with an accountability committees, and the ways committees can engage with data in order to support progress monitoring and decision-making.

At the end of the meeting, we all probably left with more questions than answers! It was a rich discussion about making data more accessible to all stakeholders.

RESEARCH BRIEF

Family, school, and community partnerships (FSCP) are woven throughout countless federal, state, and local education policies—ESEA Section 1116, SB 09-90, and SB 13-193 to name a small few.

Despite FSCP being integrated and elevated in education policy, and even though it is gaining traction as a necessary school improvement strategy, partnerships still tend to occur in pockets of excellence and as random acts.

Dr. Milbrey McLaughlin's stellar 1987 article, [Learning From Experience: Lessons From Policy Implementation](#), outlines why policy implementation (in general) is so difficult and what is needed to succeed.

"We have learned that policy success depends critically on two broad factors: local capacity and will. **Capacity**, admittedly a difficult issue, is something that policy can address. Training can be offered. Dollars can be provided. Consultants can be engaged to furnish missing expertise. But **will**, or the attitudes, motivation, and beliefs that underlie an implementor's response to a policy's goals or strategies, is less amenable to policy intervention."

So what can schools and districts do to address attitudes, motivation, and beliefs about FSCP? [Focusing on efficacy](#)—producing a desired outcome—is one tactic. When teachers see the benefits on their partnership efforts in action, they are more likely to partner with more families in different ways. The same true for families seeing the outcomes of their partnership efforts. Check out Dr. Kathleen Hoover-Dempsey's research for more articles about efficacy.

The next SAC/DAC Networking meeting is on Tuesday, February 8th from 5:30-6:30. We will focus our time on SAC and DAC member's favorite topic...budgets!

Clarice Fortunato from Englewood School District will be joining us to describe Englewood's process for budgeting with their DAC and SACs, and the role of the committee in budget planning. We will also share budget planning examples from around the state.

Go [here](#) to review materials from past sessions and view upcoming topics.

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

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

