



Dear FSCP Friends,

Since January 2020, Colorado has been part of an exciting [national project](#) to improve family, school, and community partnerships (FSCP) in education preparation programs (EPPs). The Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Department of Higher Education, and Fort Lewis College are lead partners on this project.

Every month, higher education leads attend a Community of Practice (CoP) to discuss promising practices and common challenges of preparing future educators to partner with families and the community. This work has me thinking about how we can continue to support FSCP training in Colorado, both in preservice and inservice.

What does your district do to prepare educators to work with families? Keep me posted on your FSCP inservice plans moving forward. Elevating FSCP professional development is critical to advancing the field and improving student outcomes.

In Partnership,

*Darcy*

## UPDATES

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

**November 10, 5:30-6:30pm**, SAC/DAC Networking Series. Topic will be about FSCP Policy. Open to anyone currently or interested in being on an accountability committee. Register [here](#).

**November 16, 9-11:30**, State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education Meeting. Contact Darcy for more information if interested in attending.

**November 19, 10-noon**, Coffee Chat for district staff. Andrea Pulskamp will share school climate and mental health supports. Join the zoom meeting [here](#).

**January 13-14**, Annual FSCP District Leaders Retreat, Cheyenne Mountain Resort. More information forthcoming, but save the date!

**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

Over the years, Jeffco Public Schools has improved opportunities for families, school staff, and community partners to provide feedback and guidance on everything from budget to professional development ideas.

The established Principal Advisory Committee (TI-PAC) and Teacher Advisory Committee (TI-TAC) are structured to include Articulation area representatives that meet on a regular basis—typically monthly. In 20-21, the district added a Liaison Advisory Committee (TI-LAC) to include Family Engagement Liaisons. TI-LAC was created to:

- Stand united in the districts efforts to provide access, equity and opportunity so all students can achieve their best.
- Provide reflection, perspective, feedback, ideas and guidance in sharing recommendations to Title I leadership.
- Create processes so work is streamline and efficient.

During monthly meetings, liaisons have an opportunity to collaborate across schools, build synergy, and share neighborhood/community resources. Most importantly, they can elevate the voice of the families with whom they work.

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

## SAC/DAC ON TRACK

The October SAC/DAC Networking Series focused on District, Board, and committee relations. Participants discussed topic areas that school boards could direct accountability committees to study (e.g., code of conduct, discipline, calendar, training, capital planning, or graduation guidelines), as well as using accountability committees to develop implementation plans for district initiatives, collect stakeholder feedback, or draft resolutions. Accountability committees can play a valuable role in the success of district wide strategies!

The next Networking Series meeting, Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30, is all about FSCP policies. One of the charges of accountability committees is to support implementation

## RESEARCH BRIEF

The role of family engagement liaison (FEL) is critical to school and district FSCP programmatic structures. Even though FSCP enthusiasts intuitively know the value of FELs, their jobs remain under-researched and their role is often misunderstood.

Dr. Mavis Sanders, former professor at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, conducted one of the [only studies](#) to date about FELs and the role they play in bridging the home-school gap. Sanders' case study found that FELs build positive relationships with families through:

- Direct services to families who are at-risk.
- Support for teacher outreach.
- Support for school-based partnership teams.
- Data for program improvement.

Liaisons are uniquely positioned to lead FSCP initiatives in school while also directly supporting families' unique needs.

Dr. Sanders also stressed the importance of district leadership to ensure that liaisons are prepared to complete their work. "District leadership and support are especially important for underresourced schools that often direct the professional responsibilities of parent liaisons away from family outreach activities to other school-based activities" (p. 295).

In the coming months, the Office of FSCP will be developing more resources to elevate the FEL role in schools and districts. Stay tuned for some exciting announcements!

of the school board's FSCP Policy. Participants will discuss what this looks like in practice, including drafting and updating your existing policy, using the policy to organize activities, and best practices in policies across the state. Thompson School District will be in attendance to discuss how they are currently updating their FSCP Policy, including their goals, framing, and how they are collecting stakeholder feedback.

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 DECEMBER.

For questions, contact Darcy Hutchins, Director of Family, School, Community Partnerships,  
[hutchins\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto:hutchins_d@cde.state.co.us), 303-562-8175

