

FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERING

# THE FSCP KEY



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education



Dear FSCP Friends,

For the past two months, I have had the wonderful opportunity to work with middle school preservice teachers at a local university. One week, I encouraged the preservice teachers to practice making a positive phone call home to parents; after all, it has been proven to be a high-impact strategy for student learning.

To my surprise and dismay, every preservice teacher reported that parents commented they had never before received a positive phone call from their child's school. Some parents even cried because they were so happy to get some good news about their child.

Positive phone calls are a low-cost, high-yield way to build strong relationships between home and school. During this month of thanksgiving, consider taking the time to thank those within your sphere of influence through positive phone calls.

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 14**, State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education, 11am-3pm, 1525 Sherman St Denver. Open to the public.

**November 16**, FSCP Coffee Chat Monthly Meeting, Adams14 School District. For district contacts.

**January 18-19**, FSCP Coffee Chat Retreat, Colorado Springs. For district FSCP contacts and leaders. Contact Darcy for more information.

**ESSA Application for School Improvement (EASI):** FSCP is one of the consultation options included in the new EASI application. For more information about the application process, go to: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/apps/easiapp/login>

For a more comprehensive list of announcements from CDE, you may subscribe to The Scoop, a newsletter published every Wednesday: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications>

### 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

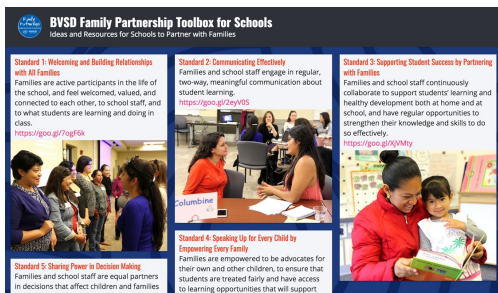
Collaborating  
with the  
Community

# PROMISING PRACTICES

Boulder Valley School District created a Virtual Toolbox to encourage schools to share Promising Partnership Practices. The online portal is organized around the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships and follows school goals regarding the same practices.

The Virtual Toolbox aims to help schools within Boulder Valley to communicate their successes via an online platform. Although the Virtual Toolbox was only introduced to Boulder Valley School District in May 2017, it is already receiving positive feedback. School staff report loving using the online portal. Boulder Valley hopes to spread the word about the Virtual Toolbox online service so more schools and administrators can actively use the site.

For more examples of Promising Partnership Practices, go to: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/uip/promising>



# RESEARCH BRIEF

American author Dave Barry once said: “If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential, that word would be ‘meetings.’”

Conducting effective and efficient meetings can be a daunting task, but it doesn’t have to be. Before your next home-school meeting (e.g. parent-teacher conferences, IEP, School Accountability Committee) consider the following elements and statements of a collaborative approach to meetings:

**Connection:** I believe that trust develops when participants feel valued, listened to, and understood.

**Optimism:** When facing difficult situations, I believe that each person is doing the best he or she can and that every family has strengths and resources.

**Respect:** In my interactions with families, I believe that each person (including me) is both an expert and a learner.

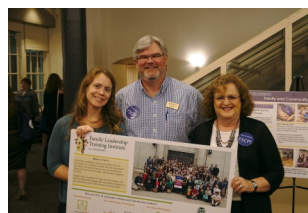
**Empowerment:** I believe that power, responsibility, decision making, and action should be shared when planning interventions.

Source: Minke, K. M., & Anderson, K. J. (2008). Best practices in facilitating family-school meetings. A. Thomas & J. Grimes (Eds.) *Best practices in school psychology fifth edition*, 3.

# SACPIE SPOTLIGHT

On October 5, SACPIE and CDE co-hosted the Kickoff to Family and School Partnership in Education Month. About 75 people from across Colorado attended the event to celebrate partnerships. SACPIE members Joanna Peters and Evie Hudak spoke at the event. Over 30 poster displays and dozens of resources were

shared with those in attendance.



Thank you to Raymond Johnson, CDE’s Mathematics Content Specialist, for taking photos of the Kickoff.

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

For questions, contact Darcy Hutchins, Family Partnership Director, [hutchins\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto:hutchins_d@cde.state.co.us), 303-866-5921

