



Dear FSCP Friends,

Many of you have heard me encourage people to “integrate and elevate” family engagement in schools and districts. It is important to integrate family-school-community partnerships in aspects of school and district functioning. And it is equally important to elevate FSCP to be some sort of priority so that it is proactive instead of reactive.

One area that seems to be ripe for FSCP integration is school nutrition, health and wellness, and social emotional learning. In October, I’ve had multiple meetings and presentations in this arena. School health coordinators and various organizations are linking health and wellness with FSCP.

How are you working with your district colleagues around nutrition, health, and wellness? Do your district’s school-level family engagement liaisons know the resources that exist for families in these areas? If you are also making headway in this area, please share your stories with me!

Thank you for all you do!

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 15**, 10-noon, Coffee Chat for district staff, Boulder Valley School District. Register [here](#).

**November 18**, [Survey](#) for FSCP Framework due. Please distribute far and wide with your contacts.

**November 19**, SACPIE Quarterly Meeting, 11am-3pm, MindSpark Learning Center, Lakewood, CO. Open to the public.

**December 13**, 10-noon, Coffee Chat for district staff and school-level liaisons, Cherry Creek School District. Register [here](#).

**January 9-10**, District Leaders Retreat, Cheyenne Mountain Resort, Colorado Springs. Register [here](#).

**FSCP Coffee Chats for 2019-20**, 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

With support from Action for Healthy Kids and Denver Public Schools (DPS) Food and Nutrition Services, parents from eight schools in southwest Denver are meeting regularly with district staff to discuss student health, unite their voices, and advocate for healthy changes to their schools' wellness policies and practices. The goals of the DPS Health & Wellness Southwest Parent Advisory Committee are to educate parents about district health goals and initiatives, educate DPS staff about the interests and concerns of DPS families, and provide opportunities for staff and families to build trusting, collaborative relationships.

The committee meets 6-8 times during the school year. Monthly discussion topics related to school nutrition, physical activity, social emotional climate, and mental health are determined by the committee members in advance.

The group's collaboration has increased family engagement and community involvement and has led to significant improvements to the school nutrition environment. Parents worked with their individual school principals to institute changes in their school cafeterias in ways that best fit each school's needs.

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

## SACPIE SPOTLIGHT

The State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE), in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Education, hosted the seventh annual Kickoff of *Family and School Partnership in Education Month*.

Governor Polis spoke to crowd of over 125 people about the importance of family partnerships. He also read the Proclamation in both English and Spanish.



# RESEARCH BRIEF

The Institute of Educational Leadership and the National Association of School Psychologists recently published an article entitled [Nine Elements of Effective School Community Partnerships to Address Student Mental Health, Physical Health, and Overall Wellness](#).

Many of these elements will seem familiar to you and should be fairly easy to integrate into your current FSCP structures.

1. A leadership team comprised of school and community stakeholders.
2. Assets and needs assessment to address student health and wellness and a framework for results.
3. A designated person located at the school to lead the coordinated school-community partnerships.
4. Clear expectations and shared accountability for the school and community partners.
5. High-quality health and wellness services that leverage school and community resources.
6. Ongoing comprehensive professional development for all school leaders, staff, and community partners.
7. A detailed plan for long-term sustainability.
8. Regular evaluation of effectiveness through a variety of measures.
9. Communication plan to share progress and challenges.

Schools and districts had an opportunity to share their promising partnership practices and some even left with Governor Polis' autograph on their posters. It was definitely an evening to remember and a great step forward for FSCP in Colorado.



SACPIE meetings are held quarterly and are open to the public. The next meeting is located at MindSpark Learning in Englewood, CO on November 19 from 9am-3pm. For more

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), 303-866-5921

