



State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education

# 2021 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  
Leslie Levine, Chair  
Dee Leyba, Vice Chair**

Prepared by:

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December 2021

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

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**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<sup>1</sup> 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 listing 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 the duties specified in [C.R.S. § 22-7-304 from SB 09-090 and SB 13-193](#). This report includes a description of SACPIE's structure and membership, a list of advisory duties,<sup>2</sup> SACPIE's progress in fulfilling those duties, and next steps.

### SACPIE Structure and Membership

The 24-member council, along with Colorado Department of Education (CDE) support staff, meet quarterly. In 2021, all four meetings were shortened and held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Shortening the meetings from six hours to 2.5 virtual hours required prioritizing discussion topics and presentations. Each meeting still had a 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 2021, SACPIE continued to complete subcommittee work through an ad hoc format based on topic, need, and interest. This year, SACPIE members formed ad hoc subcommittees to discuss improving communication with the field and to draft a statement for Family and School Partnership in Education Month.

The Council also still had an Executive Committee, comprised of the SACPIE Chair, Vice-Chair, and the CDE Family Partnership Director. The purpose of the Executive Committee is to:

- Plan SACPIE meetings;
- Lead SACPIE meetings;
- Recruit and interview new members; and
- Check-in with current members.

In 2021, the SACPIE Executive Committee filled six 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> C.R.S. § 22-7-304 outlines 15 recommendations for advisory duties and technical assistance for SACPIE to conduct in Colorado. This report includes the recommendations that SACPIE is currently implementing.

For the first time in SACPIE’s history, due to interest from both the State Board of Education (SBE) and members of SACPIE, the Council now has a liaison from the SBE. Dr. Lisa Escárcega serves in this capacity. Dr. Escárcega attends every council meeting, shares SBE updates, and answers questions from Council members.

SACPIE’s operating procedures state that each year, the council will select a Chair and Vice Chair. In November 2021, SACPIE members elected Yoni Dobie-Geffen, a nonprofit representative representing traditionally underserved populations, to be the Chair and Angie Frank, a parent representative from Congressional District 6, to be the Vice Chair. This term begins in January of 2022.

### SACPIE Advisory Duties

**Advisory Duty:** Creating and implementing programs to effectively involve parents in improving their children’s education and levels of academic achievement. To identify these best practices and strategies, the council shall review the programs implemented in other states and the results 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, 2008) 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 Global Family Research Project](#);
- [The National Association of Family, School, and Community Engagement](#); and
- [The Flamboyan Foundation](#).

In 2021, 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. About 40 sites submitted a practice for the seventh annual publication. Each practice is aligned with the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships and [Colorado’s Four Essential Elements](#).

To continually stay informed about new research findings and effective partnering programs, a SACPIE representative participates with CDE staff in a monthly national call with other state representatives, facilitated by the American Institutes for Research (AIR). In 2021, the CDE Director of Family, School, and Community Partnerships (FSCP) shared SACPIE’s work regularly during the monthly calls. In November 2021, the FSCP Director also had the opportunity to share SACPIE’s work with representatives from the United States Department of Education.

“Resource Sharing” is a regular agenda item at every SACPIE meeting. This is an opportunity for members to share FSCP programs from their organizations and to form and deepen partnership

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.

In February 2021, two national organizations—The [National Association of Family, School, and Community Engagement](#) (NAFSCE) and the [Frameworks Institute](#)—partnered with the Colorado Department of Education to facilitate a Reframing Institute. The purpose of the institute was to teach participants research-based communication strategies to help elevate the role families play in their children’s education. About 75 percent of SACPIE members attended the three live sessions. These members then formed an ad hoc committee to discuss how SACPIE can leverage the communication strategies and to plan a recap of the event at the May 2021 quarterly meeting.

Due to the positive response of the Reframing Institute, CDE staff partnered again with NAFSCE and the Frameworks Institute to turn the live sessions into [10 asynchronous online modules](#). SACPIE members have shared this free professional development widely. To date, over 100 participants have completed the online modules, including school and district staff, school board members, nonprofit leaders, and family leaders. Many of the participants in the modules are a result of personalized communication from SACPIE members.

**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 gap (C.R.S. § 22-7-304(1)(b)).

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 ninth year, in October 2021, Governor Polis declared October 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.

Four SACPIE members formed an ad hoc committee to write a statement for Family and School Partnership in Education Month. This statement used communication strategies they learned from the Reframing Institute. The statement read:

The State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE) believes that every child deserves the opportunity to shoot for the stars. Just as a space launch requires engineers, mathematicians, and other experts working together on a shared mission, education needs many different people doing their part to ensure that every student achieves their educational goals. We know that families, educators, and community members all have a critical role to play in helping our children and youth to achieve their dreams.

SACPIE encourages early childhood programs, elementary schools, secondary schools, districts, and institutes of higher education to read the 2021 collection of [Promising Partnership Practices](#) and explore the [Family School and Community Partnerships Toolkit](#) to increase their capacity to provide high impact partnering strategies that lead to

positive student outcomes. When we have a unified vision that all students can overcome the opportunity gap and we provide any support they need to succeed, everyone can reach the stars.

SACPIE members distributed this statement with their stakeholder groups, the CDE Communications Division shared it on social media, and it remains at the top of the [SACPIE website](#).

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

Several of SACPIE's parent representatives serve on a school and/or district accountability committee. Two parent representatives are also local school board members. These council members take information from SACPIE back to their local accountability committees to strengthen implementation. Two parent representatives presented research-based partnering strategies that they learned from SACPIE meetings to their District Accountability Committees.

Another parent representative is helping School Accountability Committees in her district 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.

**Advisory Duty:** The council shall inform, at a minimum, the early childhood councils and the early childhood care and education councils created pursuant to article 6.5 of title 26 (C.R.S. § 22-7-304(1)).

The SACPIE representative from the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) leads the Family Voice Council housed within CDHS. This representative had several Family Voice Council members attend the Reframing Institute and used those strategies to strengthen partnerships in the human services sector.

At the November 2021 SACPIE meeting, staff from the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) at CDHS shared a draft of the upcoming early childhood framework, funded by the Preschool Development Grant. SACPIE members provided feedback about strengthening family voice in the framework and prioritizing research-based strategies to improve partnerships in early childhood education.

In the fall of 2021, staff from CDHS, CDE, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) started to hold bi-monthly meetings to ensure inter-departmental collaboration around family partnerships in early childhood programs. Members of this group include the CDHS SACPIE representative and the CDE FSCP Director. This inter-departmental team was the catalyst to OEC attending the SACPIE meeting in November to gather feedback about their early childhood framework.

**Advisory Duty:** Initiatives to increase admissions to institutes of higher education and the degree-completion rate and to reduce the need for remediation (C.R.S. § 22-7-304(2)(b)).

In spring of 2021, the SACPIE Chair presented to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) about current council initiatives and general research about high-impact family, school, and community partnerships. The CDHE representative on SACPIE initiated this presentation and former CCHE representative and SACPIE advisor Leah Porter provided an introduction.

In 2021, CDE, CDHE, and Fort Lewis College entered its second 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, currently running through 2022, has both national and Colorado-specific implications.

Nationally, the initiative has three intended outcomes:

- Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs) across the country will address family, school, and community engagement (FSCE) in meaningful and effective ways within their educator and administrator preparation programs.
- State agencies with pre-service oversight and key stakeholder groups across the country will address family and community engagement in meaningful and effective ways within their educator and administrator preparation program requirements, standards, and accreditation regulations.
- Educators and administrators will have the preparation, exposure, and support needed to effectively put in place teaching practices, organizational infrastructure, and policies that create equitable and meaningful opportunities for families to engage in their children's education, to support child development, student achievement, and school improvement, as well as overall teacher quality.

Beginning in February 2021, 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. These meetings will continue at least through 2022 as the group tries to deepen and broaden FSCP in EPPs.

**Advisory Duty:** The council shall work with the department to provide regional training programs for school district accountability committees and school accountability committees. At a 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)).

In 2021, the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE) representative on SACPIE collaborated with CDE staff to facilitate the [SAC and DAC Networking Series](#) which began in August of 2021 and will run through May 2022. These monthly meetings are intended for current and prospective accountability committee members to learn the ins and outs of leading and participating on an effective SAC or DAC. Every session includes brief content about the highlighted topic, a presentation from the field, and breakout sessions for participants to network with other SAC and DAC members.

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.

**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 evolves, training sessions often occur by invitation from districts and organizations.

The FSCP Director at CDE sought to increase SACPIE members' capacity to conduct their own training sessions. To accomplish this goal, three of the four SACPIE meetings in 2021 included a "train the trainer" model or theoretical frameworks, research, and high-impact FSCP strategies. Many SACPIE members took this information, including prepared slides and talking points, to their various constituents and stakeholder groups. Parent representatives used the slides and talking points at their DAC meetings, nonprofit organizations used the information in some of their projects, and state agency representatives shared the information with their various councils and advisory groups. The Colorado Parent Teacher Association highlighted the information at their annual spring summit.

**Advisory Duty:** The council, in consultation with the department of education and the department of higher education, shall identify key indicators of successful parent engagement in 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-12<sup>th</sup> 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. District-level staff are the primary audience for this new resource.



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 overview of the definition and 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. In addition to dozens of districts across Colorado using the rubrics, a small group of SACPIE members also use the rubrics to guide their organization's partnership work.

**Next Steps**

SACPIE will continue to increase and broaden the implementation of its legislated responsibilities in 2022. These efforts include, but are not limited to:

- Gathering resources that support implementation of Colorado's Family-School-Community Partnerships Framework;
- Using FSCP data collected from CDE-supported grants (e.g. State Personnel Development Grant, School Climate and Transformation Grant) and monitoring (e.g. Every Student Succeeds Act, Exceptional Student Services Unit) to guide SACPIE's continued family partnership initiatives;
- Implementing trainings about best practices and skills to improve home-school partnering for student achievement in districts and schools in collaboration with CDE;
- 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 Higher Education to increase family partnership in postsecondary and workforce readiness;

- Working with the Department of Human Services and the new Department of Early Childhood to foster effective family-school partnerships, particularly in early childhood education;
- Using research-based strategies to intentionally communicate more regularly with all stakeholders about the importance of family partnerships; and
- Seeking additional opportunities to promote family-school partnership practices in Colorado.

**Appendix A**  
**SACPIE Membership 2021**

SACPIE Membership 2021			
Member Name	SACPIE Role	Organization	Congressional District of Parent Representatives
Leslie Levine, Chair	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	Cooking Matters	--
Dee Leyba, Vice Chair	Parent Representative serving on a school or district accountability committee	--	Congressional District 4
DJ Anderson	Parent Representative	--	Congressional District 2
Ayde Avila	State-based nonprofit organization specializing in promoting the involvement of families of traditionally underserved populations	RISE Colorado	--
Pam Christy	Nonprofit organization that specializes in promoting the involvement of families of students with disabilities	PEAK Parent Center	--
Kristen Collins	Colorado Department of Education-Federal Programs Unit	Colorado Department of Education	--
Brooke Coté	Parent Representative serving on a school or district accountability committee	--	Congressional District 5
Dr. Angie Frank	Parent Representative serving on a school or district accountability committee	--	Congressional District 6

Yoni Dobie-Geffen	State-based nonprofit organization specializing in promoting the involvement of families of traditionally underserved populations	Climb Higher Colorado	--
Dr. Kris Greer	Representative from higher education	Teacher Education Department/Fort Lewis College	--
Chelsey Hall	Representative of the department of human services appointed by the executive director of said department	Colorado Department of Human Services	--
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	--
Mark Sass	Statewide organization that represents teachers	Teach Plus Colorado, Adams 12 School District	--
Jason Taylor	Statewide organization that represents school executives	Platte Valley Middle School	
Joyce Thiessen-Barrett	Colorado Department of Education-Exceptional Student Services Unit	Colorado Department of Education	--
Michael Vente	Representative from higher education	Colorado Department of Higher Education	--
Stacey Zis	Statewide organization that represents members of school district boards of education	Colorado Association of School Boards	--
Vacant**	Parent Representative serving on a school or district accountability committee		Congressional District 1
Vacant**	Parent Representative		Congressional District 3
Vacant*	Parent Representative serving on a school or district accountability committee		Congressional District 7

Vacant*	State-based nonprofit organization specializing in promoting the involvement of families of traditionally underserved populations		
Vacant*	Statewide organization that represents parents and teachers.		
Vacant*	Statewide organization that represents charter schools		

\*Candidate for vacancy has been interviewed and will be brought to the State Board of Education for final approval in January 2022.

\*\*Vacancy still in process of being filled.

SACPIE Advisory Members and CDE Support 2021	
Name	Organization
Dr. Darcy Hutchins, SACPIE Staffer	Colorado Department of Education-Office of Family, School, and Community Partnerships
Dr. Lisa Escárcega	Colorado State Board of Education
Leah Porter	Colorado Commission on Higher Education

**Appendix B**  
**SACPIE 2020 Parent Membership Application**

# 2021 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; and
- 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 November 2021 and continue for three years, with an opportunity to continue for another term.

### Application Summary

*Applications are due September 30, 2021 to Darcy Hutchins ([hutchins\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto: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

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*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 9:00-11:30AM.

*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 September 30, 2021 ([hutchins\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto: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.):	
Mailing Address:	
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	
Gender:	
Ethnicity:	
Congressional District of Residence:	
Child's Grade:	
Child's School:	
Congressional District (if known):	

Are you currently serving on a School Accountability Committee (SAC) or District Accountability Committee (DAC)?    Yes \_\_\_\_\_    No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to do so in the future? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

### References

Please provide contact information for two references that would be able to speak to skills/tasks needed of SACPIE applicants.

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



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

## Statement of Interest

### SACPIE Application

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](mailto:hutchins_d@cde.state.co.us) and note in the subject line: "SACPIE Application." Emailed applications are preferred.

To apply by mail, send to:

Darcy Hutchins  
Colorado Department of Education  
201 E. Colfax, Room 409  
Denver, Colorado 80203

All applications and supporting material must be received at the email or U.S. mail address above no later than 5:00 p.m. September 30, 2021. Questions regarding the application process may be directed to Darcy Hutchins at 303.562-8175.

SACPIE will review application materials and recommend candidates for the vacant positions to the State Board of Education by September 30, 2021.