



COLORADO
Department of Education

A Community of Practice Supporting Inclusive Practices for Students with Disabilities

Today's Topic- Setting the Stage for Family Partnerships

Remember to Sign- in

*"Supporting
Inclusive
Practices for
Students with
Disabilities"*



Facilitator Information

- Michael Ramirez, Ed.D. (He/Him/His)
 - Exceptional Student Services Unit, Colorado Department of Education (CDE)
 - Supervisor, Equity Projects Specialist
 - Facilitative Leader and Coordinator for IHE CoP
 - Adjunct Faculty at Colorado Christian University
 - Background:
 - CDE Leadership (RtI, PBIS, Building Bridges MH Grant, Restraint / Seclusion Rules)
 - Supervised CDE's initial implementation of MTSS
 - Founder of a Facility School's flagship program (Shiloh House, Inc.)

Facilitator Information, Continued

- Bryn Harris, PhD, NCSP (she/her/hers)
 - Professor - University of Colorado Denver
 - School of Education and Human Development & Department of Pediatrics (Developmental Pediatrics)
 - Background:
 - PhD - Indiana University
 - Licensed Psychologist (CO) and School Psychologist (CO)
 - Bilingual in Spanish
 - Practicing School Psychologist (part-time) - Denver Public Schools
 - Research focuses on identification of autism in culturally and linguistically minoritized populations



Member Introductions



Introduce yourselves in the chat!

- Name, preferred pronouns, role, district/region/BOCES.
- From which location in Colorado are you joining us?
- What's got you excited about the new school year?

Grounding in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

- *Form Relationships as Peer Mentors:* Opportunities for connection extend beyond the limited time we have in sessions.
- *Overcome Dominance or Balance Issues:* Ensure everyone has an equal opportunity to raise questions and share ideas.
- *Remain Solutions Oriented:* Don't spend all your airtime dwelling on problems or challenges; instead, commit the limited time we have to sharing practices and considering opportunities.

Today's Agenda

- This Community of Practice (CoP) is a forum to discuss research-based strategies to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.
- Introductions
- Lessons learned from prior CoP sessions
- Discussion Regarding “Setting the Stage for Family Partnerships.”
- Reflective Activities
- Closing



Setting the Context

During this session we will explore the questions:

- *What conditions build a foundation for strong school-family partnerships?*
- *What strengths and opportunities may exist in your setting?*
- Topics for Future Sessions:
 - ✓ 1st: Setting the Stage for Family Partnerships (Today)
 - 2nd: Forging Family Partnerships
 - 3rd: Promising Practices in Family Partnerships
 - 4th: Family Interviewing Case Study

Two Rounds of Breakout Discussions

- Both rounds will have multiple simultaneous breakout rooms.
- You may self select a breakout room based on audience.
- Questions will be placed in the chat, please copy and save for your breakout session.
- You may want to adopt and adapt the questions for your staff meetings.
- Session 1, ~15 minutes, & Session 2, ~12-minutes.
- Note catcher: Appoint a scribe and reporter.

Reflection Activity- Round 1(15 minutes)

- **Self Awareness when working with Families**

- Why is self awareness so critical to this process?
- What is potentially lost or at risk in family collaboration when individuals or teams do not reflect first on their own identities?
- How do my personal experiences shape how I approach advancing equity among children with minoritized identities and children with exceptionalities in my school/district/context?

Reflective Activity #2 (12 Minutes)

- **Reflection on Current State of Your School/District/Context**
- If you have data related to family and community engagement,
- If you don't currently have data on this topic,
- What did you notice when exploring your district or school website?
 - How easy is it to find resources or information families may be interested in?
 - How accessible is the information for multilingual families?

Reflection Activity #3: Future Opportunity

Empowering Families

- How can we build agency and opportunity for our parents to share their input?
- What structures already exist, such as Parents Encouraging Parents, and what gaps are there?
- How does or can your district empower families to participate in meaningful ways in the school community?
- What barriers may exist to family involvement and participation?

Final Reflections and Commitments

In the chat,

1. Share relevant breakout notes in the Chat.
2. List your top takeaways from today's discussion.
3. How will you use Reflection # 3, with your team?
4. Identify one commitment, goal, or next step, based on today's learning.

A Vision Toward the Future

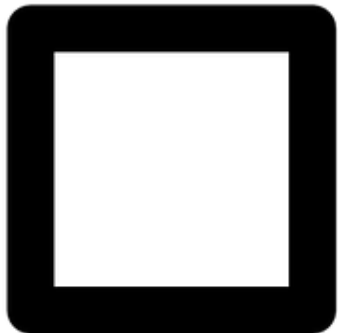


This session will be posted on the website, and you can register for future sessions at:

[Supporting Inclusive Practices for Students with Disabilities](#) (Registration closes two weeks before the Meeting)

- September 16, 2025
- October 14, 2025
- November 4, 2025
- December 9, 2025





Topic for next meeting:
“Forging Family
Partnerships”

**Look for pre-meeting
assignments to be
shared before the next
meeting.**

Evaluation and Certificate



- *CoP of Practice for Advancing EDI for Students with Disabilities.*
- *Today's Topic: "Setting the Stage for Family Partnerships"*

Contact Information

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Register For Next Session



Upcoming Sessions

- October 14, 2025
- November 4, 2025
- December 9, 2025

