



COLORADO
Department of Education

A Community of Practice Supporting Inclusive Practices for Students with Disabilities

Today's Topic- Promising Practices in 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?
- In one word, what are you most thankful for in education right now?

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 “Promising Practices” in Family Partnerships
- Reflective Activities
- Closing



Setting the Context

During this session we will explore innovative and impactful practices that build and strengthen family and school partnership.

- 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, ~12 minutes, & Session 2, ~12-minutes.
- Note catcher: Appoint a scribe and reporter.

Reflection Activity- Round 1(12 minutes)

Promising Partnership Practices in Family Collaboration

Think about the Promising Partnership Practices that you read in your prework. Choose one of the practices and share with your group:

- What was the practice/strategy? Where was it tried? Describe it very briefly.
- What were the outcomes?
- What did you find interesting/surprising/challenging in this practice?
- How might this be used or adapted to specifically support the needs of students with disabilities and their families?
- How can these be used or adapted to specifically support the needs of students and families from culturally and linguistically minoritized backgrounds?

Reflective Activity #2 (12 Minutes)

Promising Practices in Your Setting

- What additional practices have you seen employed in your school settings? What made those practices impactful?
- How were these practices developed or implemented? What needs did these practices address? How can we learn from these successes in identifying needs and developing promising practices?

Reflection Activity #3: Future Opportunity

Home Visits

- What experiences have you had with home visits?
- What barriers might exist to home visits from the family's perspective? From school staff's perspective? How can these barriers be overcome?
- What structures, practices, or policies may be beneficial in supporting the occurrence of effective and impactful home visits?

Reflection Activity #3: Future Opportunity, Continued

Community Schools

- What features, practices, or essentials of the community schools model resonated with you?
- While most schools in Colorado are not designed in the community schools' model, what characteristics or practices could be applicable to all schools?
- How can schools outside of this model find ways to meet broader needs of the community? How might this be supportive of students within schools?

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

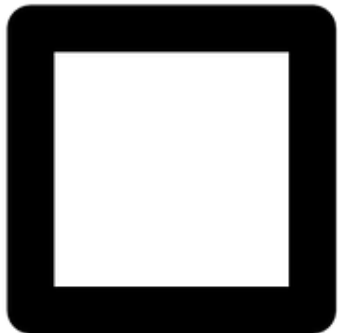


This session will be posted on the website, and you can register for future sessions at:

[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:
“Family Interviewing Case
Study”

**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: "Promising Practices in Family Partnerships"*

Contact Information

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Register For Next Session



- Upcoming Sessions
- December 9, 2025

