

FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERING

THE FSCP KEY



COLORADO
Department of Education



Dear FSCP Friends,

I hope this FSCP Key finds you all well and rested! The Office of Family, School, and Community Partnerships (FSCP) has had a busy summer planning events and supports to coincide with our first-ever yearly theme: **Cultivating Systemic FSCP!**

The Office of FSCP strives to gather feedback and, more importantly, follow-through with supports that *you* have indicated would be most helpful to accomplish your FSCP goals.

Therefore, I am pleased to share that this year we are completely revamping the website, adding more self-paced online learning opportunities, conducting monthly office hours for new contacts, and starting a Learning Cohort focused on high school FSCP!

Of course, Coffee Chats (in person and virtual) and [Promising Partnership Practices](#) (2022 edition online now!), and individualized technical assistance will continue as always.

Looking forward to a wonderful year!

In Partnership,

Darcy

UPDATES

Several FSCP events are on the horizon. Please share the dates far and wide and mark them on your calendars. Also consult the [FSCP Year-at-a-Glance](#).

August 19, 10-11:30, Coffee Chat for district staff. Topic about new resources and Cultivating Systemic FSCP. Join the zoom meeting [here](#).

August 25, 5:30-6:30pm, SAC/DAC Networking Series about Basics and New Resources! [Here](#) is more information.

August 30, 9-3, State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education Meeting. [Westminster City Park and Recreation](#). Open to members of the public.

September 8, 9-10, FSCP Office Hours. Everyone welcome especially new FSCP contacts. Join [here](#).

September 16, 10-noon, Coffee Chat for district staff. Hosted at Aurora Public Schools about their Welcome Center. Location TBD.

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

The community at Wilmore-Davis Elementary is comprised of a diverse community including various socio-economic, racial/ethnic, education levels, work experiences, and family dynamics. This practice offers real time learning snapshots where all families can engage in effective and meaningful two-way communication regarding the main topic that every family has in common; their child/children's education.

In order to plan and prepare for this type of practice, school staff called every family two weeks before school started to welcome them into the new school year, introduce the idea of the learning snapshots, and asked them to sign up for Remind (a messaging App).

In collaboration with teachers, families joined classroom learning at pre-arranged times. Afterward, every family in that class was sent a personalized message with a picture of the student's individualized work or the work of the class. Each message included a short description of the lesson and a question they could ask their child at the end of the day to trigger a conversation about what they learned.

Families felt they played a stronger role in their child/ren's education as the messages were delivered in real time and they could ask questions or comment back.

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

SAC/DAC ON TRACK

The Colorado Department of Education is excited to reconvene the SAC/DAC Networking Series. This year, meetings will be held bi-monthly on the fourth Thursday.

During the first session, participants will learn and review accountability committee basics; membership, legislated responsibilities, and new resources.

These sessions are a wonderful opportunity to connect with other SAC and DAC members across Colorado to share promising practices and troubleshoot challenges.

Last year, during the inaugural year of this networking series, participants learned about several topics, including

RESEARCH BRIEF

Many of you who have worked with the Office of FSCP for any amount of time have probably heard me cite the [2011 article by Epstein, Galindo, and Sheldon](#) about "nested" partnership support structures. This article highlights the importance of district-level staff supporting schools in their FSCP work.

I am thrilled to share an updated version of that research, recently published in [Phi Delta Kappan](#). Dr. Joyce Epstein partnered with Ohio's Statewide Family Engagement Center to better understand what is needed to sustain and grow family, school, and community partnerships. They identified eight essential elements of effective partnership programs:

- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Annual written plans for partnerships
- Implementation
- Evaluation
- Adequate funds
- Collegial support
- Networking

The article states: "When the eight essential elements are operating, states, regions, districts, and schools report stronger programs of school, family, and community partnerships."

We will be discussing these eight elements in Coffee Chats throughout the school year. The Office of FSCP is here to help with your implementation journey.

budget setting, including stakeholder feedback on the Unified Improvement Plan, and drafting a districtwide family engagement policy.

This year, the planned topics are: SAC/DAC basics, Read Plan and ICAPs, Attendance, FSCP Policy, and Recruitment/Planning. These topics may change based on your feedback and a more pressing topic to discuss.

Go [here](#) to review materials and recordings from past sessions. The Office of FSCP staff look forward to learning from all of you to improve supports we can offer to others.

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

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