

FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERING

THE FSCP KEY



COLORADO
Department of Education



Dear FSCP Friends,

Hopefully the back-to-school rush has settled a bit and you are enjoying the crisp mornings of fall. We have several exciting FSCP updates.

To begin, the Office of FSCP will grow by one very shortly with the arrival of Josie Stroope. We will miss Jes when she's on maternity leave and will welcome her back with open arms in January. The one and only [Cheryl Cook](#), recently retired from Thompson School District, will be covering for Jes from Oct 2-Jan 12. She's excited to see everyone at Coffee Chats!

November is *Family and School Partnership in Education Month*. This year, instead of a kickoff, we are launching a social media campaign. We'll discuss this more at the Coffee Chat on Oct 20.

We will also celebrate the month with a special "Bring Your Superintendent" Coffee Chat on November 17th. Start working your magic now to encourage your superintendent to attend. Stay tuned for more celebrations in the works!

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](#).

Ongoing Self-Paced Courses. Available for free [here](#).

October 20, 10-11:30, Coffee Chat for district staff. Join the zoom meeting [here](#).

October 26, 1-4, San Luis Valley Collaborative. Alamosa location TBD.

November 14, 9-2, State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education Quarterly Meeting. MindSpark Learning. Open to the Public.

November 17, 10-11:30, "Bring Your Superintendent" Coffee Chat for district staff. Join the zoom meeting [here](#).

November 30, 9-10, FSCP Office Hours. Everyone welcome especially new FSCP contacts. Join [here](#).

December 15, 10-noon, In Person Coffee Chat with a hybrid option for district staff. Englewood School District hosting.

For a more comprehensive list of announcements from CDE, you may [subscribe](#) to The Scoop.

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

Poudre High School has utilized Cooking with Families over the last four years to create a more inclusive and welcoming culture for all families. During this event, students from Poudre High School and other family members take time to talk about their country and why the dish they are teaching others to prepare is important to them.

The Family Liaison contacts students and families that are interested in volunteering and works with them to select a menu from their country that they would like to prepare (i.e., beverage, appetizer, entree, and dessert). These details, along with the date and time of the event, are emailed out to all members of the school community.

Students and families who have participated in the program mentioned how much more comfortable they feel at school knowing school members are open to learning about their culture and value their culture and traditions. The program has also allowed students to feel more comfortable communicating with their teachers and allowed various members of the community to interact with each other, who may not have otherwise.

To help commemorate the event over the years, as well as include others who do not have the chance to participate, consider creating a recipe book for attendees and the school community.

[Click here](#) for more examples of Promising Partnership Practices.

SAC/DAC ON TRACK

Over the past two months, many SACs and DACs have requested and received training about stakeholder engagement. Family, school, and community partnerships (FSCP) intersect with accountability committees in two key ways:

1. Parents as the largest stakeholder group on the DAC or SAC.
2. FSCP as an improvement strategy.

Many districts share that they struggle to fully staff the accountability committees. If this is the case, consider having parents currently on the DAC/SAC help with recruitment.

[Research from the Frameworks Institute](#) indicate that:

“When parents themselves explain the benefits of engage-

RESEARCH BRIEF

For students to experience academic success, attending school regularly is the first step. In 2021-2022, Colorado’s chronic absenteeism rate reached 34.5%. Chronic absenteeism is considered to be missing 10 percent, or about 18 days, of school and can drastically affect academic success. [Research has found](#) that family engagement is an important strategy for reducing chronic absenteeism. In particular, two standards from the [National Standards for Family-School Partnerships](#) can significantly reduce chronic absenteeism: a welcoming school environment and sharing power and advocacy. Family engagement strategies that support school attendance include:

- Sharing information about attendance policies in direct and personalized ways in families’ native languages.
- Positive home visits focusing on the student’s hopes and dreams.
- Inviting families of frequently absent students to participate on the School Accountability Committee.

Hosting middle-to-high school transition events that include current families and students sharing information on school policies and the importance of attending school regularly.

By sixth grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school. Family engagement strategies can mitigate this risk by welcoming all families into the school community and building families’ relationships both with other families and to school personnel.

ment, it makes the message more **credible and convincing**. And when parents describe their own experiences, it helps people understand that engagement is both **important and feasible.**”

Providing training for new and returning accountability committee members is also critical for sustainability and effectiveness. The Office of FSCP recently published a [free self-paced course for SAC members](#) to learn more about their role on the committee.

Your friends at CDE are here to answer your DAC/SAC questions and provide supports as needed. [Peruse this website](#) at your leisure and reach out to Darcy with any questions.

THANK YOU FOR SPENDING TIME WITH US THIS MONTH.

WATCH FOR THE NEXT EDITION IN OCT/NOV.

For questions, contact Darcy Hutchins, Director of Family, School, Community Partnerships, hutchins_d@cde.state.co.us, 303-562-8175

