



State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education

SACPIE Quarterly Meeting
August 26, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jess Welch, Roxanne Aviles, Liz Wilson, Kimberly Chatman, Twyla Esquibel, Michelle Zeles-Hahn, Rhonda Palic, Nathan Hickman, Caitlin Fitzpatrick, Stacey Vanhoy, Jamita Horton, Kate Garvin, Sarah Hanselin, Michelle Zinser, Jenny Lerner, Carrie Olsen, Beth Donahue, Brooke Cote, Sena Harjo, Mary McNeill, Rashida Banerjee

State Board of Education Liaisons: Kathy Plomer, Sherri Wright

Guests: Amy Werpy, Martha Fischhoff, Johann Liljengren, Darcy Hutchins, Jes Stroope, Yazmine Patino, Jamie Madigan

9:00 Welcome and Business

Jess Welch opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Kimberly Chatman motioned to approve May minutes. Liz Wilson seconded. All in favor. May minutes approved pending the name correction for Beth Donahue.

Darcy Hutchins provided a vacancy update. Although five positions have been recently filled, there are still two vacancies. Darcy is working with the state's PTA, who have recommended someone to take over the PTA position. However, the position will be posted. SACPIE is also still missing a health and wellness person. Any help that SACPIE members can provide would be greatly appreciated. The CDE Communications team will be pushing the position out via social media via the CDE Communications team. SACPIE has previously shared their preference for a person with a mental health focus versus a physical health focus. Jes Stroope shared the official legislation description of the position, which can be found on the SACPIE homepage under news.

Darcy then shared that all members are eligible for travel reimbursement. In her email sent Monday, August 25th, Darcy sent out the necessary paperwork that members can complete and send to Yazmine Patino if they are interested in reimbursements.

Lastly, Darcy shared that SACPIE currently does not have a vice chair given Angie Frank's resignation. Darcy will send out an email requesting nominations for an election in November.

9:15 Get to Know SACPIE Members

Jess Welch led members and attendees through an introduction activity.

9:51 State Board of Education Liaison Updates

Sherri Wright shared that the State Board of Education recently participated in a two-day retreat where they discussed the legislative platform and the budget, among other topics. Kathy Plomer added that the Board approved the science standards at these meetings after receiving student and parent feedback. Kathy also reminded members that parents and community members can provide feedback to the State Board of Education and shared that math standards for high school are still open for discussion. The Board is looking at a calculus pathway with advanced mathematics, but they are interested in seeing if there are other mathematics that should have content written about them. This is currently in review. Kathy also shared that the district- and school-level SAT and CMAS scores for are now available online. There is a bill that ensures parents receive their students' information early, which they should have received in June. Lastly, Kathy shared that the Board will be discussing rules around school funding. Both State Board of Education liaisons, Kathy Plomer and Sherri Wright, are open to questions.

Jenny Lerner shared that the Office of Migrant Education recently completed the second year of the family engagement consortium. They've just finished the math section, where they did a pilot program with twenty students. She will be sharing that curriculum and education with everyone in SACPIE. Math did better than literacy since it was more play based, and the emphasis was on 2nd grade through 5th grade.

9:57 Increasing Student Engagement – CDE's Strategic Plan and SACPIE

Darcy Hutchins introduced the Increasing Student Engagement presentation to be led by the Office of Dropout Prevention, which will be a listening and feedback session, and reminded members how SACPIE is written into the CDE Strategic Plan.

Johann Liljengren started the presentation, sharing that CDE will be releasing the 2024-25 engagement and attendance data tomorrow, August 27th. Johann discussed why engagement and attendance matters, sharing data points at all grade levels. As part of the strategic plan, CDE has set the ambitious goal to reduce chronic absenteeism by 50% from its pandemic high of 35.5% in 2021-22 to 17.8% in 2026-27. However, in the CDE strategic plan, an additional year has been added to align with the other CDE set strategic plan priorities. Johann then shared a graph that shows the chronic absenteeism data by grade level from kindergarten through 12th grade, where a U-shaped curve is present. Johann added that CDE does collect preschool data. However, this collection is optional and inconsistent; therefore, preschool data is often not included. Mary McNeill asked if CDE is taking into account the current immigration situation that is impacting attendance. Johann shared that CDE cannot see through the statewide data if that is true, but CDE has heard from districts that this is happening. Kim Chatman asked if the U-shaped curve is consistent with pre-pandemic data. Johann shared that the data has been collected since 2016-17 and the curve is consistent. However, the kindergarten absenteeism rate has remained higher than pre-pandemic levels. Johann then presented two additional graphs where the chronic absenteeism data is disaggregated by student groups – race/ethnicity and program service type. Lastly, Johann shared that CDE is attempting to understand what is impacting attendance via the attendance campaign. Martha Fischhoff added that SACPIE's feedback from last year has been used in this year's campaign materials. Additionally, the CDE will be launching a webinar for districts discussing communication with families where SACPIE's feedback will also be included.

Darcy then prepared SACPIE members for a small group discussion activity, where she grouped members into groups of three or four. The activity includes three twelve-minute rounds where members

were asked to add their discussion notes to the linked Google slides.

For round one, members were asked to discuss what families may need from school staff to ensure their children don't miss school and what may be needed after an absence. They were also asked to discuss other reasons absences should be excused aside from illness. After round one, Darcy reminded members that they are free to add additional notes to the google slides after today.

For round two, members were asked to discuss the types of communication that are most effective with families regarding attendance policies and how school staff help students and families feel like they are part of a community.

For round three, members were asked to discuss any health-related barriers to attendance and engagement they are aware of, including mental, physical, and behavioral. They were also asked to discuss what engages their child(ren) in school and what engages them in their child(ren)'s learning both at home and in school.

To end the presentation, Darcy thanked Johann and Martha for coming to SACPIE and included an open invitation for them to seek SACPIE feedback in the future. She also shared that if any SACPIE members are interested in additional feedback sessions, they can reach out to her.

Jamita Horton shared that Teach Plus did a survey with parents last year where they included similar questions as those that were discussed today. The survey results have been published and shared with Johann's office, but Jamita will also share the publication with Darcy. Mary McNeill shared that her organization hosts family engagement meetings that Johann and Martha are invited to join. Mary also asked if they partner with Attendance Works, which Johann confirmed that his office does partner with them.

11:10 Break

11:20 SACPIE Goals and Planning for 2025-26 School Year

Jess Welch kicked off the "SACPIE's What and How for the 25-26 School Year" presentation. Last year, the theme for SACPIE was Relationships over Resources, emphasizing the importance of relationships with families and communities. During May's SACPIE meeting, members discussed what they'd like to keep, adjust, and add for this year. Both the theme ("What") and any adjustments ("How") will be discussed today.

For the What, SACPIE members were asked to vote on whether they'd like to keep the theme from the 2024-25 school year or select a new theme. As a reminder, Jess included the SACPIE Mission and Vision on this presentation slide. A majority of SACPIE members voted to keep the 2024-25 theme. Jess announced that the SACPIE theme for the 2025-26 school year will be Relationships over Resources, but with some updates.

For the How, Jess asked members to think on their own and in new small groups what they'd like to prioritize from the add and adjust boxes for the next three SACPIE meetings. Each small group was asked to determine their top three to share with the whole group, bearing in mind that the group had previously discussed the difficulties around doing work in between SACPIE meetings.

After ten minutes, Jess brought the group back together to come to a consensus as a group for what the "How" of the year will look like. Jess also clarified some of the items listed in the "Add" box created during May's meeting before the whole group share out.

Michelle Zinser shared that her team liked starting with the member professional development where

members can share information about their congressional districts. They also liked getting the context and prework prior to a presentation to understand the context and allow for processing time. They also liked adding summaries with action items or improving the feedback loop.

Kate Garvin added that her team would like those that originally requested feedback return to SACPIE to close the feedback loop. Her team also discussed the professional development piece and wanting to learn more from other SACPIE members. Jamita Horton added that they also discussed how they can bring more community into SACPIE or present SACPIE into the community through conference presentations. They focused on how people can know more about SACPIE so that they want to reach out for SACPIE member input and feedback.

Jenny Lerner shared that her group discussed the professional development piece and the importance of sharing what everyone is doing and how their actions are impacting their communities. They highlighted the importance of learning from each other. The second item they'd like to prioritize is the Universal Pre-K presentations. They also discussed how SACPIE can help increase access to this information for families that don't have access to information about Universal Pre-K. They also discussed the culture of responsible engagement and how SACPIE can support families from this point of view but also from the social emotional development and academic aspects.

Mary McNeill shared that her team discussed the lack of preschool absenteeism data and general data from presentations. They discussed how family engagement starts with preschool because it can be the least fearful time for families to feel a part of their child's education and build a community. They would therefore like to include more preschool data and discussion in SACPIE.

Liz Wilson shared that her team would like to improve feedback loops post presentations and include more presentations and discussions to learn more from the different districts and regions with topics of discussion outlined. They highlighted the importance of understanding the differences and similarities across Colorado.

Beth Donahue shared that her team's top three were Universal Pre-K and Colorado Department of Education/Exceptional Student Services Unit presentations, resource sharing, and the member professional development.

Rhonda Palic shared that her team was interested in professional development that supports the SACPIE mission, small group work that focuses on implementation, and CDE and state board connection response and closing the feedback loop.

Sarah Hanselin shared that her team would like to prioritize more information and conversation outside of K-12, like Universal Pre-K, and prioritize more chances to engage. Under that last prioritization, the team included closing feedback loops, prework, member professional development, and opportunities of consistent engagement outside of the regularly scheduled quarterly meetings.

Stacey Vanhoy added that she'd like superintendents to come to the SACPIE meetings to share their pain points while SACPIE members share what they've learned so that everyone can learn from each other. The prework in these situations could be who is coming and what their pain points are so members think about resources they could share with the districts. Caitlin Fitzpatrick added that the team's discussion highlights the prework and feedback loop closure pieces.

Once all teams shared their top additions/adjustments, Jess Welch reviewed the common threads, which included maintaining and expanding the feedback loop and communication between meetings, adding member professional development, and creating presentation guidelines with clear expectations

for presenters. Presenters should also bring challenges, pain points, and guiding questions.

Sherri Wright added that presenters should also be aware of SACPIE's expectations for presentation and should be aware of how SACPIE is able to help, possibly providing them with written guidelines for their presentations. Presenters should also be asked to send SACPIE members any presentation materials ahead of time to allow members to come up with feedback prior to the presentation. This could save time during meetings, where that time is limited to only four meetings per year.

Members also discussed sending out a survey to districts to determine common challenges that can be discussion topics during SACPIE meetings. Liz Wilson added that there is an ongoing challenge in some districts where there isn't a DAC or where the DAC isn't aligned with what a DAC should be. SACPIE discussions could help bridge this gap.

Jamita Horton introduced the Problem of Practice Framework that SACPIE can use as guidelines for presentations. In this Framework, presenters have 2-3 minutes to explain their problem and some time to answer clarifying questions before they become the observer as the attendees discuss possible solutions and next steps. At the end, the presenter summarizes what they've heard. Altogether, this procedure can take 45 minutes. Stacey Vanhoy added that Darcy Hutchins and FSCP could then close the feedback loop. Jess Welch then added that knowing what the problem of practice is and any guiding questions can act as the prework that SACPIE members can think about on their drive to the meeting rather than needing to review data or presentation materials.

Jess and Darcy wrapped up this portion of the meeting and dismissed members for lunch.

12:00 Lunch Break

12:45 Continue SACPIE Planning

Jess Welch brought the members back together after lunch to close out the SACPIE Planning discussion. Jess suggested SACPIE combine the suggestions discussed today and bring the changes to the next round of presenters. Instead of starting with data and information, the presenters should start with the questions they'd like to discuss. The agenda items can also start with SACPIE members sharing their personal experiences with the presentation topic. Jess asked members if this is a good next step and asked members to share if they have anything to add.

Rhonda Palic shared that this would be a good setup for a superintendent presentation. Jamita Horton added that this may be something that districts would like to replicate. Roxanne Aviles added that SACPIE also needs to ensure the presentations are timely, where the feedback requested is timely to the point in the school year. Jess Welch liked this and tied it back to the policies and legislative discussion had last year in SACPIE.

Darcy Hutchins added that at the May meeting, SACPIE requested a legislative session preview. The policy team is already planning on coming to the November SACPIE meeting, where this new setup can be implemented.

At the end of the discussion, Jess Welch summarized the decisions made, including the SACPIE theme for 2025-2026 Relationships over Resources and the new structure for presentations. Stacey Vanhoy added that if a future presentation doesn't fit within the new suggested structure, that shouldn't mean people can't come to present to SACPIE. Jess agreed.

12:55 Office of FSCP Updates

Darcy Hutchins started the FSCP Updates presentation with a review of the state-level leadership and district facilitation of districts bucket updates, along with sharing the FSCP office goal, “Back to Basics”. For state-level leadership, FSCP completed the core competencies for CDE staff in Spring 2025 and presented them to different leadership teams throughout CDE over the summer. Jes Stroope, Jamie Madigan, and Darcy are also working with three offices in CDE to integrate family engagement more intentionally into those offices’ work and will report back. They also have a new offering where they will be providing webinars to CDE offices along with Johann Liljengren’s office titled “Friends of FSCP”. The webinars will be on the first Thursday of each month. Dates can be found on the Year-at-a-Glance webpage. For direct facilitation of districts, FSCP will be hosting quarterly networking meetings and providing monthly coaching calls with a newly formed rural collaborative. The Educator Preparation Program Collaborative will be starting in two weeks on September 8th. This year marks Year 11 of Coffee Chats. FSCP is also working on repurposing convenings while also recognizing budget restrictions.

Liz Wilson asked how districts learned about the rural collaborative. Darcy Hutchins shared that her team sends out a monthly notice to a list of contacts. Jamie has also personally invited districts who have shown interest. Darcy also met with the field services team to discuss sharing the information with the BOCES. Liz asked if Darcy could use some help in spreading the word, to which Darcy responded yes. Roxanne Aviles asked if there is a template that can be shared with the SACPIE members. Darcy stated she will share the invitation with members.

For SACPIE updates, Darcy Hutchins reminded members of the vacancies. Darcy also shared that this year, FSCP had the largest collection of Promising Partnership Practices to date. Jes Stroope added that all practices are now published online categorized by the national standard, by level, and by high impact. For the CDE website feedback, there was only one response received, so there are no feedback loops to close for this topic. Darcy asked members to make sure they provide feedback when it is requested. The website may go down periodically due to the website migration. Lastly, Jess Welch and Darcy will follow up to get the November meeting planned out.

For next steps, Jes Stroope will create a flyer for the 2026-27 Promising Partnership Practices and send it to SACPIE members to begin outreach.

1:30 Member Resource Sharing

Kate Garvin shared the Rocky Mountain Family Engagement Collective Resources now available on the website. Resources are available in English and Spanish, and all are designed to be printable. The Collective also has funding available for additional resources, if any are needed. Kate added that they will also be making 3–5-minute videos that education staff can show families. Additionally, the Educator Echo Series will be held September 8th – 24th. The series is intended for classroom teachers where they will discuss the role of teachers in family engagement. The series runs twice a year, with another planned for Spring. These will be the same six sessions from the September series. The first teachers will receive stipend. Lastly, they do have webinars available. Darcy Hutchins was the highlight of last week’s webinar on the State Education Agency’s (SEA) role in family engagement. The next webinar will be released on September 11th where Montrose will discuss what it means to take on family engagement at the district level. Liz Wilson asked if there is anything on the website available for families on how to work with the school/district to understand if their student(s) are successful in school. Kate shared that there is one titled “Civic Engagement” where parents can learn how to use their voice. The second is titled “Unlocking the Joy of Reading” where families start to learn how to determine where their child is developmentally and how they can support their student(s) at home. There is also a multilingual

webinar available titled “Welcome to Family Engagement and the School System in the US”. This is a three-session training available in 5 languages. Kate added that these videos can also act as a Family Engagement 101 training that will hopefully help with this piece. Kathy Plomer added that the State Board did discuss the CMAS reports that schools receive and can send to parents and whether parents know how to read this data. The State is trying to provide general tools to explain scores and how to know how the district is doing academically. Sherri Wright added that the data can also provide parents with an idea of how to help their student(s). Kate will share the echo flyer for teachers with Darcy to share with SACPIE members.

Jenny Learner shared information regarding the IMPACT for Math and Literacy Training via the Zoom chat that Darcy will share with SACPIE members.

Beth Donahue shared that the Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conference, which is a parent conference designed to support parents of students with disabilities, will be held over two days on October 3rd & 4th in Thornton. The conference will have keynote speakers, workshops, and small group discussions. Registration is open. Beth will share the registration link and flyer With Darcy Hutchins.

Sarah Hanselin shared CDHS updates. On the Federal side, the main impact they see is within SNAP. There is no direct federal guidance yet, but something will be coming eventually. CDHS is also working on lowering the payment error rates. Sarah also shared information regarding the 211 and Colorado Warmline project. There will be a special pilot launch in three counties in October where families that need support can receive resources. Additionally, Summer EBT is closing on August 31st. All resources must be used by the 31st. Sarah also shared resources that 211 Colorado has regarding school supply resources. Families can call or go online for these resources. They are also looking for nominations of families with positive adoption stories for national adoption month through September 5th. Additionally, they have opening on the Colorado Juvenile Parole Board. Lastly, there is a foster youth celebration happening on October 3rd. Once flyers are created, Sarah can share them. Liz Wilson asked if there were people that are part of the 211 and Colorado Warmline project specially trained to handle to mental health issues specific to LGBTQ+ students. Sarah confirmed that there was special training provided.

Twyla Esquibel shared that they will be hosting an educator training on FASFA, CASFA, and other programs within the Higher Education Department. They will also be hosting a completion event after the training and will be hosting another training on November 11th at CSU Pueblo. They are also revamping the Colorado Promise program, where students can get up to 65 credit hours reimbursed on their taxes. Twyla will send all the information to Darcy Hutchins to be shared with SACPIE members. Lastly, FAFSA will open on October 1st. CASFA is also aiming to open within the first two weeks of October.

1:35 Wrap-Up

For wrap-up, Jess Welch reminded members that they must attend at least three meetings to maintain membership in SACPIE. The next meeting on November 18th will be at the Colorado Gives Foundation starting at 9:30am. The last two meetings of the year will be held on February 10, 2026 and May 5, 2026.

1:40 Adjourn