



Dear FSCP Friends,

I hope this first FSCP Key of the 2018-19 school year finds you all well-rested and ready for a productive year.

This summer, CDE staff worked with the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE) to collect and publish over 60 Promising Partnership Practices from schools and districts across Colorado. Look for the 4th edition of *Promising Partnership Practices* on the CDE website in September.

A few other big projects are in the works to cultivate FSCP across the state. Colorado is participating in a cohort with nine other states to write a culturally responsive P-12 family engagement framework. More information about this endeavor is forthcoming.

We are also working on developing support materials about how districts and schools can authentically engage stakeholders in the improvement planning process.

We look forward to working with you this upcoming 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.

**August 17,** Back-to-School FSCP Coffee Chat Retreat and Action Planning, 8:30 am-noon, mindSpark Learning, 455 S Pierce St, Lakewood, CO 80226. For district contacts.

**August 21,** State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE) Meeting, 11:00am-3:00pm, 1600 Broadway Suite 2200, Denver, CO 80202. Open to the public.

**September 21,** FSCP Coffee Chat, 10:00am-noon, Cherry Creek School District. For district contacts.

**October 4,** Family and School Partnership in Education Month, 6:30pm-8:00pm, Location TBD. All are welcome.

**FSCP Coffee Chats for 2018-19,** 10-noon, Third Friday of each month. Half of the chats will be in-person and half will be virtual. Mark your calendars now!

For a more comprehensive list of announcements from CDE, you may subscribe to The Scoop, a newsletter published every Wednesday: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications>.



# PROMISING PRACTICES

Foster Elementary School, located in Arvada, has created an interactive volunteer program called Two Hours by Me. The goal of the program is to promote and encourage family volunteers to work shoulder to shoulder to increase student success. The simple formula is two hours of volunteer time for the students = student success.

A volunteer coordinator guides parents and families who want to volunteer using a creative and self-sustaining approach to school support. Parents and families are able to interact directly with the school staff, learn more about the educational system, and support students in the classroom.

One tool that the school created is a volunteer tree to support communication with teachers and volunteers. The tree has pockets and notecards from teachers where volunteers can sign up and commit to supporting the school staff. Bringing the volunteer program into the home, volunteers can pick up craft kits created by the teachers. Teachers design the kits with a sample of the work that needs to be completed and parents take home the materials and return them when finished.

For more examples of Promising Partnership Practices, go [here](#).

# RESEARCH BRIEF

This month's research brief comes from a study about parents as consumers of Early Childhood Education (ECE).

Trust for Learning commissioned this research for two reasons: 1) To help providers and advocates of highly personalized early childhood education better understand the needs and motivations of parents across the socioeconomic spectrum; and, 2) To ensure that parents' voices are at the forefront of conversations about early childhood programs and policy.

Key findings include:

- More than half of all parents (52%) believe that children do best when they have both out-of-home and in-home educational experiences before they begin kindergarten.
- Parents want early childhood education experiences that prepare their children to become capable, well-rounded members of society
- Low-income parents and parents of color share the same core aspirations and motivations around early childhood education as higher-income, white parents.
- The most important factors for parents when choosing early care and education are teacher quality and school safety.

For more a summary, full report, and talking points, click [here](#).

# SACPIE SPOTLIGHT

The SACPIE Higher Education committee is working to support and encourage preservice coursework about family-school-community partnering. University of Denver offers several ways for preservice teachers to work with families.

A Cultural Sharing Conversation (i.e., CSC) is a required assignment completed by all first year graduate students in the Child, Family, and School Psychology Program at the University of Denver. Students preparing for licensure as a special educator or school psychologist complete a CSC assignment as part of a seminar associated with an initial school-based practicum.

Pairs of students engage in a CSC with a volunteer newcomer family at a time and place most convenient to the family. Families invite personal interpreters if translation is needed. A non-directive, unscripted framework is followed that prompts a bi-

directional conversation where all participants share personal stories across four domains:

- Life Journeys: Past experiences that have brought them to this place and time.
- Family Traditions: Treasured family experiences, activities, and learning that occurs at home.
- Schooling Experiences: Prior and current school culture, practices, expectations, and policies.
- Future Ideas: How to best welcome, build relationships, communicate, and educate each other.

For more information, contact Dr. Gloria Miller at [Gloria.Miller@du.edu](mailto:Gloria.Miller@du.edu).

THANK YOU FOR SPENDING TIME WITH US THIS MONTH.  
WATCH FOR THE NEXT EDITION IN SEPTEMBER. HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!

For questions, contact Darcy Hutchins, Family Partnership Director, [hutchins\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto:hutchins_d@cde.state.co.us), 303-866-5921

