

Family and School Partnership in Education

November 2023



COLORADO
Department of Education

What is Family and School Partnership in Education Month?

Since 2012, Colorado has had a designated month celebrating the importance of Family, School and Community Partnerships. Research indicates that family, school and community partnerships lead to improved students' attendance, higher graduation rates and a deeper sense of belonging (Mapp et al., 2022). This November, CDE, in collaboration with the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education, invites schools, districts, community-based organizations, families, students and all other stakeholders to celebrate and highlight the critical role that FSCP plays in positive student outcomes.

Here are three ideas that can improve family and community partnerships within your school or district:

Schools and districts looking for ways to improve partnerships with families and the community can consider the following ideas:

Glow Crazy for Literacy and Math:

Every classroom teacher hosts glow in the dark math and literacy games to help families gain easy-to-replicate ideas to support learning at home. Creating fun activities for the whole family also boosts the school's culture and climate.

Learning Sessions:

Parents are critical to their children's educational success. Families, staff, and students meet regularly to set goals, monitor progress, and discuss next steps. This practice also strengthens relationships between home and school.

Cooking with Families:

Student success is related not only to grades and graduate rates, but also to how connected, supported, and motivated students feel. Families take turns sharing their home culture through cuisine. 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 traditions.

The impact of FSCP in Colorado

In 2009, Senate Bill 90 created the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education. The 24-member council includes parents, state agency representatives, state associations and nonprofit entities that intersect with families and education.

SACPIE's missions and vision outline the importance of FSCP for student academic and behavior outcomes.

SB 09-90 requires CDE and SACPIE to align their work with the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships.

Colorado is one of two states to have a state-legislated position supporting FSCP, and the only state in the country to have a director-level position. The position provides support to districts wanting to improve research-based FSCP practices.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

For more information about CDE's FSCP Office and to request individualize supports, contact Dr. Darcy Hutchins, Director of Family, School, and Community Partnerships, at hutchins_d@cde.state.co.us.