

FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERING

# THE FSCP KEY



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education



Dear FSCP Friends,

I hope that you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are surviving this busy holiday season. I definitely watched too many Hallmark channel movies and some of my friends and family had to stage an intervention!

Last month during the wonderful and informative Coffee Chat in Boulder, Cookie Hansen from Aurora Public Schools, shared how she uses the [Promising Partnership Practices](#) with APS' school-based liaisons. During a monthly meeting, Cookie gave each liaison the first paragraph of a practice. The liaisons then had to decide how the practice would work in each of their schools. After completing that activity, Cookie shared the originally-published practice so the liaisons could compare/contrast.

The Promising Partnership Practices is an excellent resource that can be used in many ways, including with liaisons, other district partners, community members, accountability committees, etc. How are you using them? I'd love to hear!

In Partnership,

*Darcy*

## UPDATES

Several FSCP events are on the horizon. Please share the dates far and wide and mark them on your calendars.

**December 9**, 4:30pm, Thompson School District-hosted FSCP Twitter chat (@tsdchats, #tsdchats). More information [here](#).

**December 13**, 10-noon, Coffee Chat for district staff and school-level liaisons, Cherry Creek School District. Register [here](#).

**January 9-10**, District Leaders Retreat, Cheyenne Mountain Resort, Colorado Springs. Register [here](#).

**February 21**, 10-noon, Coffee Chat for district staff about FSCP structures and how to scale-up, Englewood School District. Registration link coming shortly.

**FSCP Coffee Chats for 2019-20**, 10-noon, Third Friday of each month. Mark your calendars now!

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

At Rose Stein Elementary, located in Jeffco Public Schools, families, school staff, neighbors and businesses work together during the winter holiday season to deliver holiday cheer to every student with a twist - a focus on celebrating and nurturing a love for reading.

During the month of December, Rose Stein staff join forces with community partners to conduct a toy drive to assist our families during this holiday season. Parents reach out to community partners and ask for donations of toys. One week before winter break, families and community champions set up a 'toy shop' where the toys are on display.

Rose Stein staff all recognize the importance of reading habits as a key to student success. So, while families shop for toys, staff use this community-gathering opportunity to share educational reading strategies and approaches that nurture a love of reading! Families receive books and include an invitation to visit the Belmar Library where they can enjoy free events and programs planned for the children during the winter break. Families that participate in the Holiday Cheer program especially appreciate this information for the kids during the time school is closed.

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

# SACPIE SPOTLIGHT

For the past 18 months, the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE), has provided feedback to the Colorado Department of Education on the development of a P-12 family engagement framework for district-level staff. While the framework will officially be launched in January, the Four Essential Elements are complete and listed below.

**Create a welcoming culture** that honors the lived experience of families in early childhood programs and/or the school community.

**Build trusting relationships** that enable families and programs/schools to partner about the education outcomes for children and youth.

# RESEARCH BRIEF

How many of you have heard some variation of the following when trying to share the importance of family-school-community partnering: "Sure, that sounds great, but show me the numbers of how it works!"

The following resource will definitely help you convince quantitative-minded partners about the importance of FSCP for positive student outcomes.

Dr. Tanya Vaughan and Susannah Schoeffel, both with Evidence for Learning, explore four evidence-based recommendations stemming from a new guidance document for Australian practitioners that outlines how parents can be engaged with schools to have the best chance to improve students' learning. These strategies are certainly still quite applicable for U.S. practitioners.

The [full guidance report](#), summarized in a shorter article [here](#), presents four evidence-based recommendations that outline how parents can be engaged with schools to have the best chance to improve students' learning.

These are:

- Critically review how you work with parents;
- Provide practical strategies to support learning at home;
- Tailor school communications to encourage positive dialogue about learning; and,
- Offer more sustained and intentional support where needed.

**Design capacity building opportunities** for staff and families that promote shared leadership about educational outcomes for children and youth.

**Dedicate necessary resources** that integrate and elevate partnering practices to scale.

The contents of this guide were written in collaboration with a variety of partners from across Colorado, with feedback from national subject-matter experts. Staff at CDE and members of SACPIE hope that this new resource will help district staff establish systemic and sustainable FSCP structures practices linked to student achievement and a positive school climate. More information is forthcoming.

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

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