



Dear FSCP Friends,

Welcome to 2023! Some of you have been back for a week while others are just getting back today. I hope that reentry is as easy as possible!

My favorite Peloton instructor, Denis Morton, has a saying: "Practice doesn't make perfect. Practice makes permanence." I believe that saying absolutely rings true when it comes to family, school, and community partnerships.

There is no such thing as perfect FSCP, but the more you practice it, and encourage others to practice, the more it becomes routine in how schools and districts function.

How can FSCP practice make permanence? Consider having a standing 5 minutes for FSCP updates in a staff meeting. Or perhaps you share a Promising Partnership Practice with your schools every Monday. Encourage school staff to make 3 positive phone calls home every Thursday afternoon. The possibilities are endless. So how will you practice FSCP this week? You could even track your progress on a vision board or BuJo.

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, P-12 FSCP Framework Online Course. Available for free [here](#).

Ongoing Promising Partnership Practices. No need to wait until the end-of-year scramble to submit a Promising Partnership Practice for the 2023 edition. [Submit here](#).

January 20, 10-11:30, Coffee Chat for district staff. Dr. Sue Sheridan will join us to discuss TAPP, an evidence-based FSCP strategy. Join the zoom meeting [here](#).

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

February 14, 9-2, State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education quarterly meeting. MindSpark Learning. Open to the public.

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

Kullerstrand Elementary School's Vision Partnership Team—comprised of administrators, teachers, parents, and other staff—created two literacy initiatives last school year: Reading BINGO and Read-to-Me Events.

Students received a BINGO board with reading activities that families completed together over the course of a month. Additionally, each month a special guest came to Kullerstrand and read to students and families. Families were then invited to stay after the Read To Me Event to speak one on one with the instructional coach and reading specialist to get tips and ideas on how to best support their student at home. Between these two monthly events, over 300 books were given away to participating students.

If your school is interested in offering these enriching literacy opportunities to your families, one piece of advice would be to make sure to communicate with all parties involved with plenty of time prior to the event. The monthly Reading Bingo seemed to work better when it was sent home in paper form. It was still available for families digitally, but when it was sent home each month in paper form, the participation seemed a bit higher.

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

SAC/DAC ON TRACK

Last month, I had a conversation with a new DAC Chair who is trying to revive and revamp the team. Her main question was one I hear over and over again: *Where do I start?* Unfortunately, the answer to that question isn't very helpful, because *it depends*.

If you are feeling underwater and overwhelmed with a fledgling accountability committee, the first thing to do is to acknowledge your starting points.

Do you have a team but are struggling with the legislative responsibilities? Then I recommend taking a look at [this website](#), reviewing the corresponding resources, and choosing one or two priorities.

RESEARCH BRIEF

Parent leaders are a valuable family engagement resource. Providing leadership training opportunities to families supports National Standard Four, Speaking Up for Every Child, and National Standard Five, Sharing Power, by instilling confidence in families to advocate for all children and teaching families how to be equal partners in their child's education.

Research has found that after participating in leadership training focused on family strengthening and healing-centered engagement, parent leaders stop viewing themselves as "just a parent" or a "worrier" and begin to think of themselves as "change agents" and the "go-to people" in their community (Geller et al., 2019). These parent leaders began to understand that their struggles were not their fault, but rather barriers created by systems and policies. Additionally, many became more dedicated to taking action in their community and were seen with new respect by their children and families.

Some of the practices that led to these changes include:

- Meeting parents' individual needs and goals
 - Creating a welcoming community that feels like family
- Empowering parents through skill- and knowledge-building

To learn more about developing families' leadership capacities, check out page 68 of *Everyone Wins! The Evidence for Family-School Partnerships and Implications for Practice* by Karen Mapp and Anne Henderson (2022).

Perhaps you are struggling to recruit and retain members that represent the student population of the school/district. In that case, personal invitations are your friend! Families on the SAC/DAC are most often the best recruiters of more families.

Another possibility is that you currently don't have an accountability committee. If that's the case, then now is the time to create and foster relationships with your district and school community. Spend the rest of this year recruiting members and building a team.

Go [here](#) to review materials and recordings from past SAC/DAC Networking sessions.

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

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