COLORADO
Department of Education

State Advisory Council for
Parent Involvement in Education
Full Council Meeting
November 14, 2023

SACPIE
State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education

Meeting Minutes Approval

Annual Report Due 11/27

Date for May Meeting

In small groups:

- Name

- Role on SACPIE

- Find a picture on your phone of something that motivates you. Share it with the group and explain why it's motivating.

Family Resources for Kindergarten Website

Kindergarten in Colorado

Transitions into and from Kindergarten

Assessment and Instructional Planning

Learning and development

Foundational Early Literacy

Statewide partnering to increase Family and Community partnerships with schools

Background

Goal of time today

Here's what we are thinking

- The power of kindergarten
- Broad overview of kindergarten in Colorado
- Kindergarten registration facts
- School partnerships

Your Turn!

1. Share your experiences:

- What information were you looking for as your child began kindergarten?

- What resources helped you?

- What is most important for families to know about preparing to enter kindergarten, beginning the school year, and getting engaged in their child's school and learning?

2. Tell us what you think:

- Are the suggested topics helpful?

- What is missing?

- What else would be helpful?

Share your ideas

Next Steps

REVIEW FEEDBACK WITH PROJECT TEAM

DRAFT WEBPAGE

SOFT LAUNCH FOR FEEDBACK

Thank you !

BREAK

SACPIE Member
Resource Sharing and Updates

Colorado Department of Education FSCP Report

CDE Updates

- Annual Report Member Contributions

- Social Media Campaign—Keep it going!

- State Board of Education Home Visits

- SACPIE Reauthorization

- Collaborative Cohorts

- "Bring your Superintendent" Coffee Chat

- FSCP Leadership Think Tank

- **Anything else you'd like to know?**

FSCP and Chronic Absenteeism

Definition of **Chronic Absenteeism:**

A student absent 10 percent or more of the days enrolled during the school year is chronically absent. All absences are included – unexcused, excused and suspensions. The rate is the percentage of students enrolled who are chronically absent.

Chronic Absenteeism is a Statewide Priority

Commissioner Cordova's message of October 6:

"... Though many of our districts have been working hard to improve attendance and have seen some improvements, **we still see a statewide chronic absenteeism rate of 31%** – that's the percentage of students who are missing more than 10% of school for excused and/or unexcused absences. Some student groups have even higher rates – **including English Learners at 39%, students who qualify for free or reduced lunch at 43%, and homeless youth at 59.5%.**

 It isn't hard to see the link between our achievement data and chronic absenteeism. Our gaps in achievement and attendance are largest for these same groups of kids. Students need to be at school to learn, establish positive relationships and access support. We're not going to be able to improve outcomes for kids without everyone – including students, educators, parents, grandparents, other caregivers, and community members – making a renewed effort to get our kids to school regularly.

 I'm grateful to Johann Liljengren and the whole team in the **Office of Dropout Prevention and Student Re-engagement** along with our partners in **Data Services** for elevating this issue. We have not done a release on these data in the past, but the alarming absenteeism rates need to be shared widely so we can work together to get students to attend school regularly. I also want to give a shoutout to Darcy Hutchins in the **Family, School, Community Partnerships Office** for sharing promising practices on increasing attendance."

Statewide Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism Data

Chronic Absenteeism Rate

Year	Rate
2018-19	22.5
2019-20	22.6
2020-21	26
2021-22	35.5
2022-21	31.1
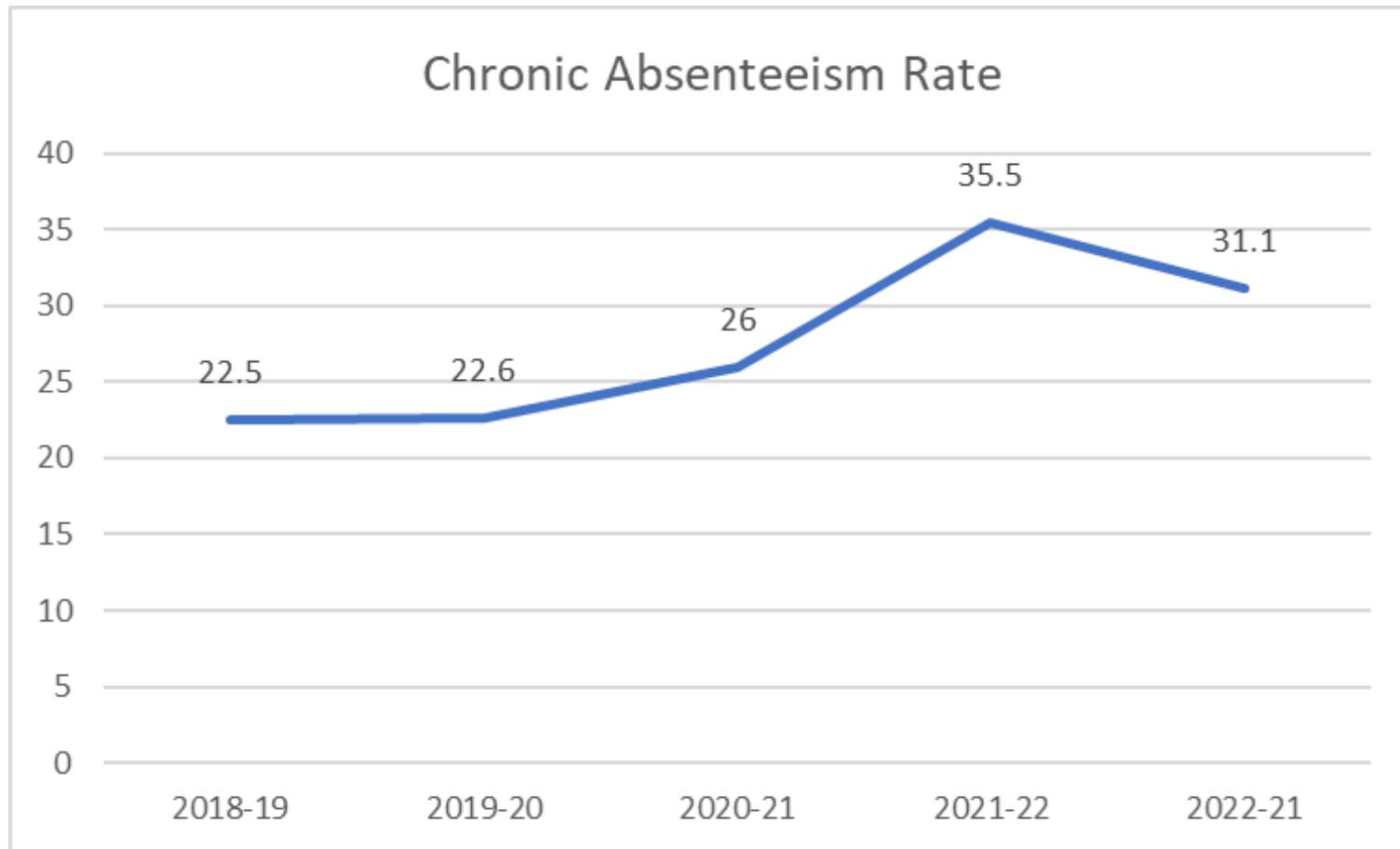
[Fact Sheet and Summary by grade level, student group and race/ethnicity](#)

FSCP as an Improvement Strategy: Positive Conditions for Learning

Figure 1. Positive Conditions for Learning Lead to Students Being Engaged and Attending Regularly
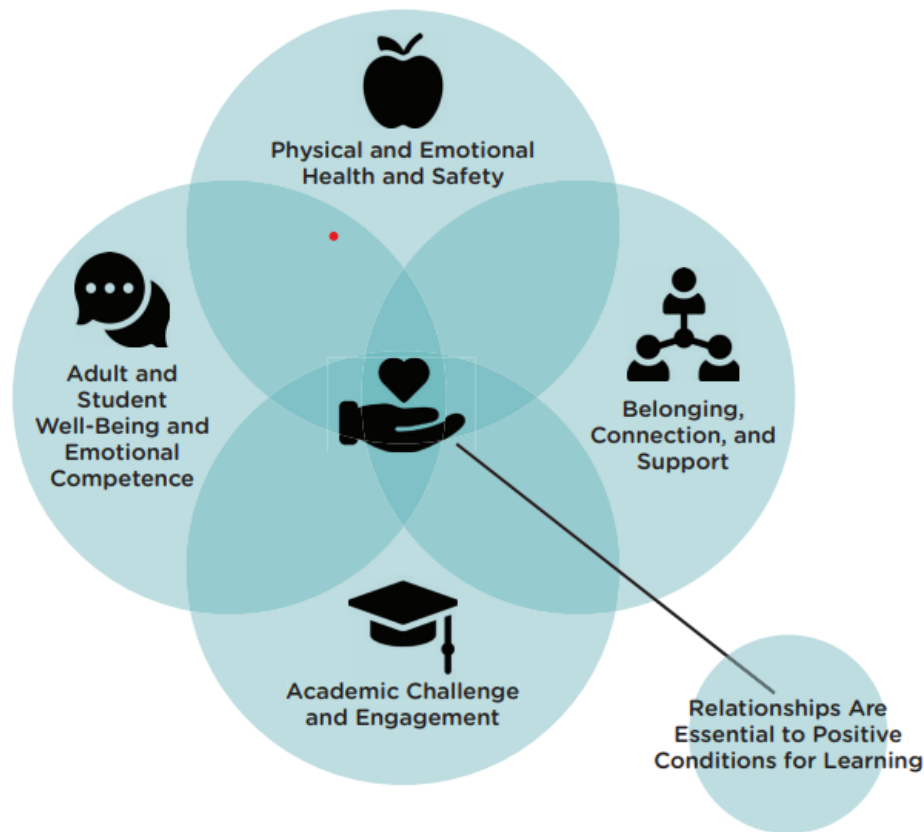
Positive Conditions for Learning

- Relationships
- Physical/Emotional Health and Safety
- Belonging, Connection, and Support
- Academic Challenge and Engagement
- Adult and Student Well-Being and Emotional Competence

Chronic Absence: A Call for Deeper Student and Family Engagement, Sept, 2023 National Association of State Boards of Education.

Figure 2. Elements of a Systemic Approach to Reducing Chronic Absence
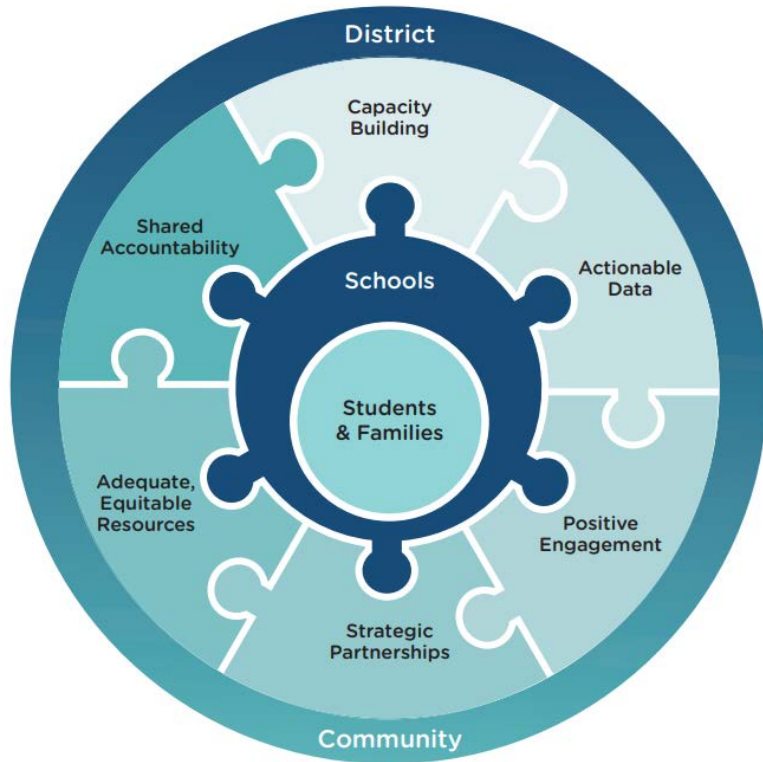
www.nasbe.org

A Systemic Approach w/ Students/Families at the Center:

- Capacity Building
- Actionable Data
- Positive Engagement
- Strategic Partnerships
- Adequate, Equitable Resources
- Shared Accountability

Chronic Absence: A Call for Deeper Student and Family Engagement, Sept, 2023 National Association of State Boards of Education.

April 2021 - The Learner Engagement and Attendance Program is launched

Summer 2021 - Home visits conducted with students identified as chronically absent from a targeted sample of 15 districts

Spring 2022 - Researchers conduct a mixed methods study on the LEAP home visit intervention.

A Targeted Approach:
- Students+Schools with High Chronic Absenteeism,
- Transition years (K,6,9)
- Student groups with higher rates of CA

Conducted by:
- Staff and Community-Based Partners

Outcomes:
- Overall growth in attendance of 4 percentage points, rising over time to 7-15% over 6 months.
- 16% Middle/High School vs 8% Elementary School
- Similar outcomes across demographic groups, with exception of EL, who showed roughly half the growth of non-EL.

An Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Home Visits for Re-engaging Students who were Chronically Absent during the Era of COVID. December, 2022 Center for Connecticut Education Research Collaboration.

FSCP as an Improvement Strategy: Home Visits in Connecticut

What providers and families noted as the main benefits of the home visit program:

- Improved Family-School Relationships
- Increased Student Attendance
- Increased Student Engagement
- Increased Student Achievement
- Increased Feelings of Belonging
- Increased Access to Resources for Families
- Increased Expectations of Accountability
- Greater Gratitude and Appreciation

And the main challenges:

- Resistant Teachers
- Resistant Families
- Fearful Families (e.g., Afraid of Deportation)

What providers and families say about what they believed to be important in increasing student attendance::

- Personalized, Dynamic Support: Dependent on Family's Needs
- Continued Training and Support for the Visitors
- A Process of Collaboration (e.g., Determining Caseload Assignments)
- Home Visitor Fluency in the Language Used in the Home
- Commitment to Establishing Connections with Families
- Collaborative Advocacy for Students (e.g., Parents, Home Visitors)

[An Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Home Visits for Re-engaging Students who were Chronically Absent during the Era of COVID. December, 2022 Center for Connecticut Education Research Collaboration.](#)

Districts with the strongest scores for family engagement had lower chronic absenteeism rates. This was particularly true in places recognized for a welcoming environment and for sharing power with families through their input and advocacy. The playbook focuses on strategies that 1) **increase awareness**; 2) **personalize communication;** and, 3) **include home visits**.

Future Ed Attendance Playbook: Smart Solutions for Reducing Student Absenteeism Post Pandemic, May 2023
https://www.future-ed.org/attendance-playbook/

Increase Awareness: Families are alerted to the magnitude and impact of chronic absenteeism

Personalized communication practices:

• Focus on empathy, how the school can help families, and what specific things families can do. Avoid focusing on punitive messages that leave parents feeling blamed

• Include printed personalized postcards or letters, rather than just texts

• Provide precise, personalized information rather than generic messages

• Send repeated communications throughout the Year

Home Visits: Teachers and other staffers meet with parents outside the school setting

Future Ed Attendance Playbook: Smart Solutions for Reducing Student Absenteeism Post Pandemic, May 2023

https://www.future-ed.org/attendance-playbook/

State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education: Partnering with Colorado's families in reducing dropout rates, gaps in academic achievement and growth among student groups, and increasing the number of students who continue into higher education following high school graduation or completion.

Colorado's P12 FSCP Framework: A Systemic Approach to creating an inclusive culture built on trusting relationships, with capacity building opportunities and adequate resources for all.

FSCP Standards: A Systemic approach to partnerships that welcomes all families, and uses effective communication and strategic partnerships in support of shared accountability and student success every child.

Promising Partnership Practices: Exemplifying local initiatives on working with families and community partners for student learning.

Continuum of High Impact Strategies: Identifying FSCP strategies that lead to student success.

To Reduce Chronic Absenteeism: Don't Forget Family Engagement - Attendance Works

Create a welcoming and inclusive culture by

- Welcoming all families

Build trusting relationships by

- Communicating effectively

Design capacity building opportunities to

- Support student success
- Speak up for every child
- Share power

Dedicate necessary resources for

- Collaborating with community

FAMILY, SCHOOL
AND
COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS

COLORADO
Department of Education

SACPIE Discussion and Recommendations

- What ideas do you have that could guide our work in this area?

- What practices might we want to elevate?

- What steps might we take at the state level? Support for the local level?

Full Council Meetings

Reminder: Members must attend at least three meetings per year.

- February 13, 2024
- May 7, 2024
- August 13, 2024
- November 19, 2024

Please share any announcements.

Thank you and please always provide your feedback at any time to:

Yoni Dobie-Geffen at ydobiegeffen@keystone.org
Angie Frank at dr.angie.frank@gmail.com
Darcy Hutchins at hutchins_d@cde.state.co.us

SACPIE
State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education