



Dear FSCP Friends,

While summer is always a good time to regroup and unwind, I must admit I'm very excited for the start of a new school year and upcoming family-school-community partnering initiatives. And, most importantly, I've truly missed our coffee chats!

My colleague, Lisa Steffen, and I will be traveling around the state to conduct District Accountability Committee (DAC) trainings for staff who support SACs and DACs. These are regional trainings in late September and early October. I will send more information in the next week or two.

The family engagement framework that my colleague, Chris Miller, and I are writing is almost complete. It will be unveiled in January 2020. By the end of writing the framework, hundreds of Colorado families, community members, educators, and district staff will have provided feedback. This has truly been a group effort and we are excited to see what the future holds.

I wish you all a happy and smooth start to a wonderful 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 16**, FSCP Coffee Chat Mini Retreat, 9am-noon, Colorado Children's Museum Denver Campus, for district contacts. Register [here](#).

**August 20**, SACPIE Quarterly Meeting, 9am-3pm, MindSpark Learning Center, Lakewood, CO, open to the public.

**Various September and October dates**, District Accountability Committee trainings, for district staff who support DACs and SACs. More information forthcoming.

**October 3**, Family and School Partnership in Education Month Kickoff, 6:30pm-8:00pm, Colorado Children's Museum Denver Campus, everyone welcome.

**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

Eiber Elementary School, in Jeffco Public Schools, believes in the power of meaningful two-way communication with families, especially when it positively impacts student success. Although the school uses many innovative ways to communicate with our community, one of the most powerful ways to communicate and build community lies within the families themselves!

During the 2018-19 school year, Eiber's family engagement liaison lead the staff to make a concerted effort to tap into that power by launching a Family Ambassador program. Staff gathered a group of families that became greeters and communication experts. These goodwill ambassadors helped to inform other families about all the ways the school partners with parents and community members.

Family Ambassadors then extend an invitation to join! Staff encourage Eiber Ambassadors to reach out during peak family contact times, such as morning drop off and dismissal to practice their approach other parents. Families who participate have expressed that they feel valued and united. They are more motivated to be in contact with the staff and teachers to seek ways to help their kids achieve and grow.

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

## SACPIE SPOTLIGHT

The State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education's (SACPIE) collaborated with the Colorado Department of Education to collect submissions for the fifth annual edition of *Promising Partnership Practices*.

Almost 60 schools, districts, early childhood programs, and institutes of higher education shared how they are working with families and community partners for student success. The intention of this publication is two-fold: to highlight the good partnership work occurring around the state and to provide examples and ideas about how other educational institutions may partner with families.

Common themes in the 2019 edition include: social emotional learning, effective communication, and boosting par-

# RESEARCH BRIEF

Raise your hand if evaluating family-school-community partnering initiatives and activities causes you anxiety, headache, and total bewilderment. You're not alone! Dr. Joyce Epstein and Dr. Steven Sheldon, both from Johns Hopkins University, recently publish an [article](#) with advice about how to evaluate partnering programs effectively and efficiently.

Among several pieces of advice, the article mentions the following simple guidelines and logical steps:

**Measure implementation first.** It is necessary to measure the *quality* of program implementation before measuring *results*. Educators need to know if important structures (e.g., team), processes (e.g., written plans, team meetings), and actions (e.g., outreach to all parents, conduct of planned activities) are in place.

**Measure quality over time.** A moving picture is more informative than a snapshot. Trend data over time on program quality will be more informative than one-time measures. By continually implementing planned activities and reflecting on the quality of the implementation, school teams will be able to discuss how their program and practices may improve from year to year.

**Include all partners in evaluations.** All partners (i.e. families, community members, teachers, administrators) need to meet together to discuss and assess the quality, progress, and next steps of the school's partnership program at the end of each school year.

ent leadership and advocacy. Most practices also include how educators are purposefully working to provide equitable, inclusive partnering opportunities for every family to positively impact every student.

Several other states across the country have shared Colorado's *Promising Partnership Practices* publication and have even started their own similar resource!

The publication will be available online in early September. In the meantime, other editions are available [here](#).

SACPIE meetings are held quarterly and open to the public. Meetings in 2019 are located at MindSpark Learning in Englewood, CO on May 21, August 20, and November 19. For more information about SACPIE, click [here](#).

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

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

