

FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERING

# THE FSCP KEY



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education



Dear FSCP Friends,

For the sixth consecutive year, Governor Hickenlooper has proclaimed October in Colorado as *Family and School Partnership in Education Month*. It is an exciting time of year to celebrate partnering for student learning.

Schools and districts celebrate the month in different ways. Some districts read the Proclamation (<http://ow.ly/u0Jc30fyQ3g>) at their October Board of Education meeting. Other sites have family nights or showcase promising practices.

At the Colorado Department of Education, we begin the October festivities with a Kickoff on October 5th that highlights the 2017 *Promising Partnership Practices*. Watch for Facebook posts and Tweets about FSCP tips from CDE's social media accounts. Make sure to include #FSCP #SACPIE #edcolo when sharing how you celebrate October!

In Partnership,

*Darcy*

## UPDATES

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

**October 5**, Kickoff for Family and School Partnership in Education Month 6:30pm-8:00pm, Tivoli Zenith Room, Denver. All are welcome.

**October 23-December 4**, Multi-Tiered System of Supports Online Course. Register here: [http://www.cde.state.co.us/professionaldevelopment/detail/pd\\_fscp\\_multi-tiered\\_fall2017](http://www.cde.state.co.us/professionaldevelopment/detail/pd_fscp_multi-tiered_fall2017)

**November 2-3**, Equity & Excellence Conference. The second day AM plenary session will focus on FSCP initiatives. The Inverness Hotel, Englewood.

**Third Friday of Every Month**, FSCP Coffee Chats. Intended specifically for district-level colleagues to discuss and share FSCP work. Contact Darcy for more information. Rotating Location.

For a more comprehensive list of announcements from CDE, you may subscribe to The Scoop, a newsletter published every Wednesday: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications>

### 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

Laurene Edmondson Elementary School (Located in Thompson School District) designed the Partners in Education (PIE) event in order to increase parent family partnerships and engage families in the development of the school's Title IA Parent Involvement Policy. School leaders were looking for new ways to include stakeholders and families that have historically been under-represented in school improvement planning.

Families join school staff for pizza pie and dessert pie during PIE Nights. School leaders create questions designed to gather input on school improvement issues, student learning, policy and practice, and topics raised as areas for exploration by staff, students, and families. Discussion questions include:

- What are some after-school activities you might like to see offered at Edmondson?
- What types of information might you like to hear about your child at parent-teacher conferences?
- What are some of your thoughts/feelings about students having homework in elementary school?

For more examples of Promising Partnership Practices, go to: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/uiip/promising>

# RESEARCH BRIEF

Many schools and districts in Colorado are implementing high-impact FSCP strategies linked to student learning. Teachers Involve Parents in Schoolwork (TIPS) is a resource to encourage teachers and families work together for student learning. TIPS Interactive Homework is an example of a high impact Family-School-Community Partnering strategy. Over 15 years of research indicates:

- The implementation of TIPS Interactive Homework resources increased familial engagement with students' school work regardless of family background or students' initial skill set.
- The use of TIPS resources enhanced positive feelings around homework and homework time for both students and family members.
- The consistent utilization of TIPS resources facilitated student improvement in study skills, report card grades, and in test-score achievement in the content area related to the TIPS resources. (Epstein & Van Voorhis, 2001; 2012)

The Colorado Department of Education partnered with Johns Hopkins University and teams of Colorado educators to develop K-3 Literacy TIPS assignments.

For more information, go to: [http://www.cde.state.co.us/uiip/tips\\_interactive\\_homework](http://www.cde.state.co.us/uiip/tips_interactive_homework)

# SACPIE SPOTLIGHT

This year, the SACPIE Elementary Subcommittee has worked on two projects to support Family-School Partnerships:

**Project One:** Research shows strong family-school partnerships improve academic and behavioral outcomes for students and are critical for creating equitable results across student groups. Unfortunately, schools often misunderstand the hurdles parents encounter when trying to partner with their student's school. To address this challenge, the Subcommittee worked to identify common obstacles parents face and recommend effective solutions that schools can adopt to minimize challenges for parents.

**Project Two:** The Colorado READ Act requires families of struggling readers be involved in their child's individualized reading plan. However, educators are not always comfortable involving parents. On a 2017 survey of Colorado educators conducted by Stand for Children, only 15% of Colorado educators indicated that they are completely comfortable involving parents to support their students' reading. To help support parents' involvement in early literacy, the Subcommittee created a resource for parents with important information about reading and how to effectively partner with their child's teacher.

Resources from the Elementary Subcommittee's work on these projects are forthcoming on the SACPIE website.

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

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

