



COLORADO
Department of Education

**Designing Stakeholder Engagement
to Drive Effective Board Governance**

2023 CASB Conference
December 9, 2023

Introductions



Darcy Hutchins, PhD, is the Director of Family, School, Community Partnerships at the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). She provides support to districts to implement family partnership programs for student success. In her role at CDE, Dr. Hutchins staffs the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE). She also teaches in the School of Education at the University of Denver.

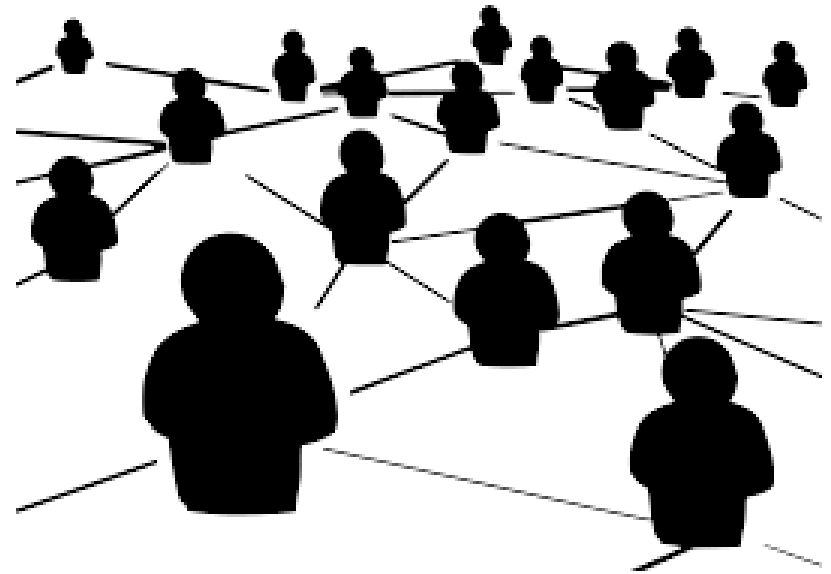
Dan Jorgensen, PhD, is the Accountability Support Manager within the Improvement Planning & Support Unit at CDE. He provides support related to data literacy, improvement planning and board governance. He is a past two-term member of the APS Board of Education. He currently serves as a Board member and the chair of the Vanguard Classical Schools in Aurora, Colorado. He is certified in the policy governance approach by the Govern for Impact organization.

The background is a dark blue gradient with numerous thin, light blue and white lines radiating from the center, creating a sense of depth and connectivity. A prominent vertical beam of light runs down the center, with other beams branching out horizontally and diagonally. The overall effect is that of a complex network or data flow.

Making Connections: The Board Perspective

Why is Community Engagement Important for Boards?

- A Board derives its legitimacy from connecting with the community members they are expected to represent.
- A board serves the district 'owners' by defining beneficiaries, benefits and the worth of producing the benefits on their behalf
- *How can a board make decisions the owners would have made if it is not aware of their values and perspectives?*

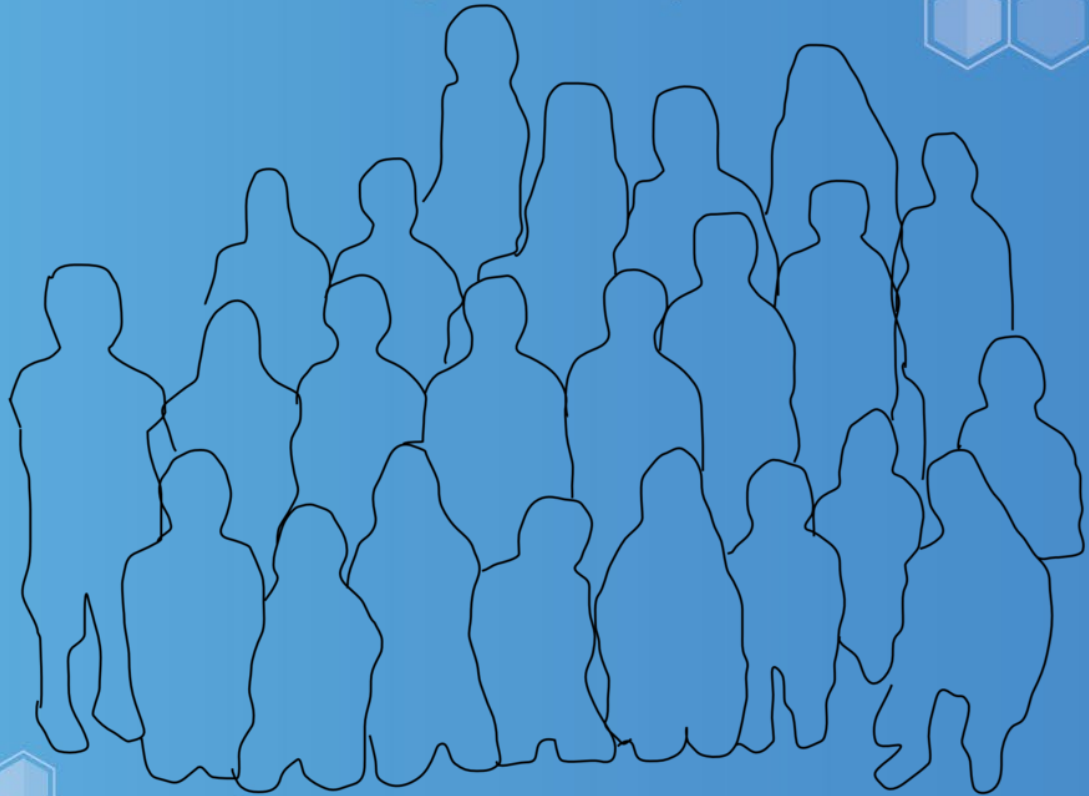


Boards Connecting with their Stakeholders: The What and Why

- Not “Public Relations” or advocacy.
- Not chance conversations.
- Intentional and constructive dialogue and deliberation between district owners and board members primarily around the organization’s purpose.
- The data from connecting with your community is a critical part of the information used to support decision making, drafting policy, and supporting the vision for the district.



Activity



Stakeholder Feedback and Consultation

Process and Timeline

June 2018—first meeting with other State Education Agencies

January 2019—definition finalized after internal and external feedback

April 2019—statewide community conversations with families

April 2019—focus groups with district-level FSCP leaders

June 2019—Colorado Department of Education staff feedback

August 2019—Local Education Agency and other organization consultation

November 2019—statewide survey, close-ended questions

December 2019—completion

August 2020—rubrics and user's guide

August 2021 and beyond—Collaborative Cohorts

**The State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education was an active participant in drafting the Framework.



CO FSCP Framework for Districts and Schools and Early Childhood Programs

Definition

Families, early childhood programs, schools, and communities **actively partnering** to develop, implement, and evaluate **effective and equitable practices** to improve **educational outcomes** for children and youth.

Family School and Community Partnerships (FSCP)

A Preschool through 12th Grade Guide for Colorado School Districts



FAMILY SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Definition:

Families, early childhood programs, schools, and communities actively partnering to develop, implement, and evaluate effective and equitable practices to improve educational outcomes for children and youth.

The below 4 Essential Elements will help you guide your way.



Create an Inclusive Culture

Create an Inclusive Culture

An inclusive culture honors the lived experience of families in early childhood programs and/or the school community. Self-assess with the following:

- How are your practices inclusive of all families?
- How are you learning about families lived experiences?
- Who is leading and supporting the creation of the welcoming culture?

Build Trusting Relationships

Trusting relationships enable families and programs/schools to partner about the education outcomes for children and youth. Self-assess with the following:

- What do trusting relationships look like in your program/district/school?
- How are you ensuring effective use of two-way communication with your families to sustain positive relationships?
- How do you leverage relationships with families to achieve your program/district/school goals?



Build Trusting Relationships



Design Capacity-Building Opportunities

Design Capacity Building Opportunities

Capacity building opportunities for staff and families promote shared leadership about educational outcomes for children and youth. Self-assess with the following:

- How do you use the context expertise of families to better your content expertise?
- How are you utilizing the assets of your families in your programs/schools?
- How are you using FSCP as a school improvement strategy?

Dedicate Necessary Resources

Necessary resources integrate and elevate partnering practices to scale. Self-assess with the following:

- How do you implement evidence-based practices to cultivate and sustain FSCP?
- Where are you now and where will you go?
- How will you continually improve your family partnerships through community-based resources?



Dedicate Necessary Resources

Characteristics of Excelling FSCP Programs



The Rubrics: Supporting Documents

Create an Inclusive Culture	
<i>The school has created an inclusive culture honoring the lived experience of families in early childhood programs and/or school community.</i>	
Reflection Question and Proficiency Ratings -	
2. How are you learning about families lived experiences?	
No efforts are made to learn about families in the community. Our focus is on the student and getting them to excel in the classroom environment.	Not Working on This
Our site tries to learn about families solely through students or by having the school counselor or family liaison work with those who come to them for assistance.	Early/Developing Stage
Our site works to learn about families by inviting them to share information about their cultural or ethnic background using a school-wide survey or some other similar method. Teachers invite families to share information about their daily routines and the schedules they maintain with their children.	Proficient
Our site invites families to share their daily routines, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, as well as the most pressing issues in their community, by engaging in a dialogue with teachers and school staff. Families are included in the planning and design of school events and practices in order to engage the more marginalized families. Teachers and school staff actively reach out to families through practices such as home visits early in the school year in order to get to know them better.	Excelling

Not Working on This = 0 Early or Developing Stage = 1 Proficient = 2 Excelling = 3

Essential Elements	My Ratings
Element 1: Create an Inclusive Culture	
a) How are your practices inclusive of all families?	
b) How are you learning about families lived experiences?	
c) Who is leading and supporting the creation of the welcoming culture?	
Element 2: Building Trusting Relationships	
a) What do <u>trusting</u> relationships look like in your program, district, or school?	
b) How are you ensuring effective use of two-way communication with your families to sustain positive relationships?	
c) How do you leverage relationships with families to achieve your program/district/school goals?	
Element 3: Design Capacity Building Opportunities	
a) How do you use the context expertise of families to better your content expertise?	
b) How are you utilizing the assets of your families in your programs/schools?	
c) How are you using FSCP as a school improvement strategy?	
Element 4: Dedicate Necessary Resources	
a) How do you implement evidence-based practices to cultivate and sustain FSCP?	
b) Where are you now and where will you go (e.g., Evaluation and goal setting)?	
c) How will you continually improve your family partnerships through community-based resources	
Average Rating/Score	

To calculate your average rating, add the scores together and then divide that number by 12.

Create an Inclusive Culture	
<i>The school has created an inclusive culture honoring the lived experience of families in early childhood programs and/or school community.</i>	
Reflection Questions:	
1. How are your practices inclusive of all families?	Your Ratings: (NW, ED, P or E)
2. How are you learning about families lived experiences?	
3. Who is leading and supporting the creation of the welcoming culture?	
Describe the extent to which you feel your site or school is welcoming to families and why.	
Describe <u>two practices</u> implemented in the past 4 months that exemplify how your site or school takes into consideration of the lived experiences of families.	
Describe at least two ways the educators or administration at your site or school try to learn about families.	
Describe the way(s) your site or school leadership is supporting a welcoming culture.	
Ingredients of a Partnership Approach: School leadership, Attention to inequities, <u>Giving</u> voice and sharing power, Programmatic approach, Teamwork & shared leadership, & Evaluation	



Breakout activity

Form a small group with the people around you.

Select one of the Essential Elements to review from a board perspective.

Potential Questions to Discuss:

- Do the guiding questions help to refine your thinking about stakeholder engagement?
- Do you have one stakeholder group in mind that you're hoping to engage?
- What might an intentional process to engagement stakeholders look like for your board? How might the FSCP Framework help your board create this process?

Contacts & Resources



- **Facilitated Board Training for School Improvement, EASI Board service.**
<https://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/facilitatedboardtraining>
 - **FSCP P-12 Framework and Additional Resources.**
https://www.cde.state.co.us/familyengagement/p-12_fscp_framework
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