



State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education

# 2020 Annual Report State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education

Submitted to:

**Colorado State Board of Education  
Colorado Commission on Higher Education  
Colorado House Education Committee  
Colorado Senate Education Committee**

By:

**The State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education  
Leslie Levine, Chair  
Dee Leyba, Vice Chair**

Prepared by:

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The State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education is staffed by the  
Colorado Department of Education.

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**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

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The State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE) is a legislated body of diverse stakeholders charged to advise state organizations and school districts on issues related to increasing parent involvement<sup>1</sup> in education. The premise is that by promoting family-school partnerships, the quality of public education will improve and the level of students' academic performance throughout the state will increase (C.R.S. § 22-7-301 and C.R.S. § 22-7-304). This responsibility specifically includes involving families in programs to increase high school and college graduation rates, decrease drop-out rates, and close the achievement and growth gaps between learner groups in the state. A listing of the current SACPIE membership and the groups they represent can be viewed in Appendix A.

Pursuant to Senate Bill 13-193, the purpose of this report is to outline SACPIE's progress in promoting family-school partnerships in the state and in fulfilling the duties specified in [C.R.S. § 22-7-304 from SB 09-090 and SB 13-193](#). This report includes a description of SACPIE's structure and membership, a list of advisory duties,<sup>2</sup> SACPIE's progress in fulfilling those duties, and next steps.

### SACPIE Structure and Membership

The 24-member council, along with Colorado Department of Education (CDE) support staff, meet quarterly. In 2020, three of the four meetings were shortened and held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Shortening the virtual meetings from six hours to 2.5 hours required prioritizing discussion topics and presentations. Each meeting still has a time dedicated to organization presentations and member resource sharing. These portions of the meetings support the council's primary legislated responsibility to learn and share about best practices of family partnerships.

In 2020, SACPIE members unanimously voted to change subcommittee structures. Rather than having standing committees organized around students' grade level, members now form ad hoc subcommittees based on topic, need, and interest. In 2020, SACPIE members formed ad hoc subcommittees to collect information about school and district accountability committees, revise the SACPIE website, and update the operating procedures.

The Council also still had an Executive Committee, comprised of the SACPIE Chair, Vice-Chair, and the CDE Family Partnership Director. The purpose of the Executive Committee is to:

- Plan SACPIE meetings;
- Lead SACPIE meetings;
- Recruit and interview new members; and
- Check-in with current members.

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<sup>1</sup> In an effort to align state and national language, based on current research, this report uses the word "family" as opposed to "parent" and "engagement" or "partnering" instead of "involvement." This is done purposefully to be more inclusive and suggest a higher level of collaboration beyond involvement.

<sup>2</sup> C.R.S. § 22-7-304 outlines 15 recommendations for advisory duties and technical assistance for SACPIE to conduct in Colorado. This report includes the recommendations that SACPIE is currently implementing.

In 2020, the SACPIE Executive Committee filled eight vacancies. A copy of the SACPIE parent member application can be viewed in Appendix B. This basic application is adapted for other representatives when vacancies for other membership roles arise on the council.

SACPIE's operating procedures state that each year, the council will select a Chair and Vice Chair. In 2020, SACPIE members elected Leslie Levine, a health and wellness representative, to be the Chair and Dee Leyba, a parent representative from La Junta, to be the Vice Chair.

### SACPIE Advisory Duties

**Advisory Duty:** The council shall inform, at a minimum, the early childhood councils and the early childhood care and education councils created pursuant to article 6.5 of title 26 (C.R.S. § 22-7-304(1)).

In 2020, SACPIE filled vacancies for both an early childhood representative and a Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) representative. The early childhood representative diligently kept the Council informed about COVID-19 related supports for families with young children. The early childhood representative also shared information about Denver Great Kids Head Start in the [November FSCP Key](#).

The Council's new CDHS representative wrote about CDHS' Family Voice Council in the [October FSCP Key](#). The article helped CDHS staff recruit new families and improve outreach.

Both SACPIE's CDHS representative and CDE early childhood representative lead efforts to align CDE's new [Family School and Community Partnerships \(FSCP\) Framework and User's Guide](#) into early learning initiatives and reports. The CDHS representative took the assessment tool to create a baseline for CDHS Offices' Community and Family Engagement work. The CDE early childhood representative worked with colleagues in the P-3 Office to incorporate the FSCP rubrics in the Colorado Preschool Program evaluation and annual report for 2021. More details about this new tool are discussed later in this report.

**Advisory Duty:** Creating and implementing programs to effectively involve parents in improving their children's education and levels of academic achievement. To identify these best practices and strategies, the council shall review the programs implemented in other states and the results of state and national research conducted in this area (C.R.S. § 22-7-304(1)(a)).

SACPIE is driven by research and data. To that end, the council aligns its work with the [National Standards for Family-School Partnerships](#) (PTA, 2008) and references those standards in its resources and presentations. SACPIE also aligns its work with the [Dual Capacity-Building Framework](#), a document published by the U.S. Department of Education in April 2014 and updated by Dr. Karen Mapp in July 2019.

To continually stay informed about new research findings and effective partnering programs, a SACPIE representative participates with CDE staff in a monthly national call with other state representatives, facilitated by the American Institutes for Research (AIR). In 2020, the CDE Family Partnership Director shared SACPIE's work regularly during the monthly calls.

SACPIE has identified resources for practitioners from nationally recognized organizations, including:

- [The Center on School, Family, and Community Partnerships at Johns Hopkins University](#);
- [The Global Family Research Project](#);
- [The National Association of Family, School, and Community Engagement](#); and
- [The Flamboyan Foundation](#).

In 2020, SACPIE worked with CDE to expand the collection of [Promising Partnership Practices](#) from schools, districts, and Institutes of Higher Education across Colorado. About 40 sites submitted a practice for the sixth annual publication. Each practice is aligned with the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships and [Colorado's Four Essential Elements](#).

Council members also helped to collect examples about how schools, districts, and organizations are supporting students and families during the COVID-19 pandemic. This [document](#), compiled right after schools closed in March 2020, assisted schools to partner more closely with families and fulfil both basic and educational needs.

Representatives from SACPIE and CDE have shared this new resource with hundreds of school and district leaders at conferences, workshop presentations, site visits, social media, and in the FSCP Key.

**Advisory Duty:** Involving parents in programs to raise academic achievement, increase high school graduation rates, decrease student dropout rates, and close the achievement and growth gap (C.R.S. § 22-7-304(1)(b)).

SACPIE is committed to building capacity in school personnel and families to partner for student achievement. To this end, SACPIE regularly encourages family participation in programs that promote student success. For the ninth year, in October 2020, Governor Polis declared October as *Family and School Partnership in Education Month*. School districts and organizations across the state shared the proclamation with boards, educators, families, and community members.

The annual in-person October Kickoff was canceled this year due to COVID-19. In its place, the CDE Director of Family, School, and Community Partnerships recorded interviews with 2020 Promising Partnership Practices recipients. These [interviews](#), housed on their corresponding Essential Element website, include an in-depth description of the practice and potential next steps for upcoming school years.

The CDE Communications Division shared the interviews on Twitter and Facebook throughout all of October. Over 500 people viewed the interviews on Facebook and over 12,000 people viewed the interviews on Twitter.

In 2020, SACPIE continued its Spotlight program. At two Council meetings, a SACPIE representative shared information about his or her organization or work as a parent. Spotlights in 2020 included:

- Michael Vente, Colorado Department of Higher Education

- Ayde Avila, RISE Colorado

To be better informed on current Colorado events and policies focused on improving student achievement, SACPIE members heard presentations and shared feedback at their quarterly meetings on the following topics:

- School and district accountability committees;
- Colorado's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) state report cards; and
- Action for Healthy Kids Family-School Partnership Guidebook.

**Advisory Duty:** Increasing parent involvement in education-related committees at the local and state levels (C.R.S. § 22-7-304(1)(e)).

Several of SACPIE's parent representatives serve on a school and/or district accountability committee. Two parent representatives are also local school board members. These council members take information from SACPIE back to their local accountability committees to strengthen implementation. One parent representative led her school accountability committee (SAC) through a review of its objectives and state requirements. As a result, the SAC created an inventory for members, re-organized the membership of the SAC (following guidelines), encouraged school leadership to have the parent chair facilitate meetings, and started allowing public comment.

Another parent representative organized a CDE-facilitated SAC training for parents in three counties in southeast Colorado. Attendees, most of whom were parents, learned their rights and responsibilities to serve on an accountability committee. As a result, many more parents were better equipped to advocate for students and serve as leaders in their local communities.

**Advisory Duty:** Requiring each school district and the state Charter School Institute, as part of the accreditation process, to increase the level of parent involvement in education (C.R.S. § 22-7-304(2)(a)).

A CDE staff member who also serves as a Commissioner-appointed representative on SACPIE assisted in providing feedback on Unified Improvement Plans to schools identified as Priority Improvement or Turnaround. The aim for all feedback was to ensure high-quality and high-impact FSCP strategies were included within plans. The reviewers aligned feedback with language from SACPIE materials to provide a consistent frame for Local Education Agencies.

**Advisory Duty:** Initiatives to increase admissions to institutes of higher education and the degree-completion rate and to reduce the need for remediation (C.R.S. § 22-7-304(2)(b)).

In 2020, SACPIE and the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) formed a more intentional partnership. Dr. Angie Paccione, the Executive Director of CDHE, attended a portion of the November SACPIE meeting to express support and answer member questions. Leah Porter, a member of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) is now an advisory SACPIE member and will attend quarterly meetings moving forward.

As mentioned above, the Colorado Department of Higher Education representative presented about [My Colorado Journey](#), a resource for secondary students to use to plan for their futures. Discussions continue about what family partnerships look like in postsecondary education.

In 2020, CDE, CDHE, and SACPIE began a new project. Colorado was selected, by the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) as one of seven states to be part of a [Pre-service Family Engagement Consortium](#). This consortium, currently running from January 2020 to July 2021, has both national and Colorado-specific implications.

Nationally, the initiative has three intended outcomes:

- Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs) across the country will address family, school, and community engagement (FSCE) in meaningful and effective ways within their educator and administrator preparation programs.
- State agencies with pre-service oversight and key stakeholder groups across the country will address family and community engagement in meaningful and effective ways within their educator and administrator preparation program requirements, standards, and accreditation regulations.
- Educators and administrators will have the preparation, exposure, and support needed to effectively put in place teaching practices, organizational infrastructure, and policies that create equitable and meaningful opportunities for families to engage in their children's education, to support child development, student achievement, and school improvement, as well as overall teacher quality.

The Colorado leads of this initiative held a [week-long virtual convening](#) for Educator Preparation Program (EPP) faculty and staff. The convening included an opportunity for participants to learn the research base behind FSCP in EPPs and to share best and promising practices to better prepare pre-service teachers and administrators to work with families. Beginning in February 2021, CDHE, CDE, and SACPIE will convene a monthly Community of Practice with EPP faculty and staff to continually discuss and improve FSCP in prep programs.

**Advisory Duty:** The council shall work with the department to provide regional training programs for school district accountability committees and school accountability committees. At a minimum, the training programs must address parent leadership and increasing parent engagement with school district accountability committees and school accountability committees, including best practices for parent engagement with school district accountability committees and school accountability committees (C.R.S. § 22-7-304(3)(b)).

In 2020, SACPIE collaborated with CDE's Director of Family, School, and Community Partnerships to conduct trainings across Colorado about family participation on SACs and district accountability committees (DACs). The trainings included information about:

- Basic responsibilities and composition of SACs and DACs;
- How to recruit, prepare, and sustain effective SAC and DAC membership; and
- How to collaborate with various stakeholders (e.g., community members, other families, other accountability committees, local boards of education).

Accountability committee trainings and resource development in 2020 occurred as a result of a survey administered to superintendents and principals. The Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE) representative on SACPIE worked with SACPIE members and CDE staff to develop a brief survey administered in early 2020. The purpose of this survey was to better understand district and school leaders' experiences with accountability committee implementation. Respondents shared that a "toolkit" and a "best practice guide" would be the most helpful resources for SACPIE and CDE to develop.

Historically, the CDE Director of Family, School, and Community Partnerships has provided trainings upon request by districts. In 2020, CDE and SACPIE offered a networking opportunity for district and school leaders to discuss promising practices and challenges with SAC and DAC implementation, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SACPIE also contributed to the newly developed [SAC and DAC website](#). The website provides resources for SAC and DAC members aligned with their statutory responsibilities. SACPIE and CDE staff are also collecting promising practices about committee functioning to assist other schools and districts across the state to support and sustain membership.

**Advisory Duty:** The council shall work with the department to provide regional training programs for school districts and charter schools concerning best practices and skills for district and school personnel in working with parents (C.R.S. § 22-7-304(3)(c)).

SACPIE and CDE collaborated to plan and implement regional trainings for Family Partnership Liaisons, SACs and DACs, and other interested school and district stakeholders about promising practices and skills in working with families. The overall purpose of the trainings was to help schools and districts implement comprehensive, sustainable structures for student success. The four components of this structure are:

- The framework of the National Family-School Partnership Standards;
- Sharing leadership;
- Action planning; and
- Evaluation.

**Advisory Duty:** The council, in consultation with the department of education and the department of higher education, shall identify key indicators of successful parent engagement in education and use the indicators to develop recommendations for methods by which the department of education and the department of higher education may measure and monitor the level of parent engagement with elementary and secondary public schools and with institutions of higher education in Colorado (C.R.S. § 22-7-304(4)).

In January 2020, CDE staff completed an 18-month endeavor to write a Preschool through Grade 12 family engagement framework. This task was part of a national project with nine other states, sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Association of Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE). Each state in the cohort received technical assistance from national subject-matter experts and quarterly in-person meetings to help write their individual frameworks.

The purpose of the framework is to develop system and sustainable state- and district-level structures that integrate and elevate FSCP, LINKING to positive students outcomes and an inviting school culture. District-level staff are the primary audience for this new resource.

SACPIE, along with many other stakeholders across Colorado, worked with CDE staff throughout the process to provide feedback and help draft a statewide FSCP definition and four essential elements for district-level staff to implement to improve partnering for student outcomes. Below is the overview of the definition and essential elements.

**FSCP 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.

**Essential Elements:**

Create an inclusive culture that honors the lived experience of families in early childhood programs and/or the school community.

Build trusting relationships that enable families and programs/schools to partner about the education outcomes for children and youth.

Design capacity building opportunities for staff and families that promote shared leadership about educational outcomes for children and youth.

Dedicate necessary resources that integrate and elevate partnering practices to scale.

In July 2020, CDE staff partnered with Johns Hopkins University to write a [User's Guide](#) for the framework, including a series of rubrics to help schools, districts, and early childhood programs self-assess FSCP starting points and next steps. Schools, districts, and SACPIE members participated in a webinar in October 2020 entitled [Family, School, Community Partnerships: From Paper to Practice](#). The webinar include a national subject-matter expert sharing how to evaluate FSCP with CDE's rubrics and a statewide panel of practitioners working with families to improve educational outcomes for students.

**Next Steps**

SACPIE will continue to increase and broaden the implementation of its legislated responsibilities in 2021. These efforts include, but are not limited to:

- Gathering resources that support implementation of Colorado's Family-School-Community Partnerships Framework;
- Using data to guide SACPIE's continued family partnership initiatives;
- Implementing trainings about best practices and skills to improve home-school partnering for student achievement in districts and schools in collaboration with CDE;
- Implementing trainings for SACs and DACs about family recruitment, retention, and participation on accountability committees in collaboration with CDE;

- Collecting and publishing promising practices from schools, districts, and organizations across Colorado;
- Streamlining and refreshing the SACPIE website;
- Working with the Department of Higher Education to increase family partnership in postsecondary and workforce readiness;
- Working with the Department of Human Services to foster effective family-school partnerships, particularly in early childhood education;
- Intentionally communicating more regularly with all stakeholders about the importance of family partnerships; and
- Seeking additional opportunities to promote family-school partnership practices in Colorado.

**Appendix A**  
**SACPIE Membership 2020**

SACPIE Membership 2020			
Member Name	SACPIE Role	Organization	Congressional District of Parent Representatives
Leslie Levine, Chair	Nonprofit organization that partners with funding providers, state agencies, and service providers to assist organizations in providing services to improve the health and well-being of families and children	Cooking Matters	--
Dee Leyba, Vice Chair	Parent Representative serving on a school or district accountability committee	--	Congressional District 4
DJ Anderson	Parent Representative	--	Congressional District 2
Ayde Avila	State-based nonprofit organization specializing in promoting the involvement of families of traditionally underserved populations	RISE Colorado	--
Nora Brown	Statewide organization of parents and teachers	Colorado Parent Teacher Association	--
Pam Christy	Nonprofit organization that specializes in promoting the involvement of families of students with disabilities	PEAK Parent Center	--
Kristen Collins	Colorado Department of Education-Federal Programs Unit	Colorado Department of Education	--
Brooke Coté	Parent Representative serving on a school or district accountability committee	--	Congressional District 5
Dr. Angie Frank	Parent Representative serving on a school or	--	Congressional District 6

	district accountability committee		
Yoni Dobie-Geffen	State-based nonprofit organization specializing in promoting the involvement of families of traditionally underserved populations	Climb Higher Colorado	--
Dr. Kris Greer	Representative from higher education	Teacher Education Department/Fort Lewis College	--
Chelsey Hall	Representative of the department of human services appointed by the executive director of said department	Colorado Department of Human Services	--
Brandon Hellwig	Statewide organization that represents charter schools	Colorado League of Charter Schools	--
Stacy Johns	Parent Representative serving on a school or district accountability committee	--	Congressional District 1
Eryn Kaiser	Parent Representative	--	Congressional District 3
Mary McNeill	Expertise in early childhood care and education	Denver Great Kids Head Start	--
Dr. Chris Miller	Colorado Department of Education-P-3 Office	Colorado Department of Education	--
Priscilla Orozco-Garcia	Parent Representative serving on a school or district accountability committee	--	Congressional District 7
Joanna Peters	State-based nonprofit organization specializing in promoting the involvement of families of traditionally underserved populations	Colorado Council of High School and College Relations	--
Mark Sass	Statewide organization that represents teachers	Teach Plus Colorado, Adams 12 School District	--
Jason Taylor	Statewide organization that represents school executives	Platte Valley Middle School	

Joyce Thiessen-Barrett	Colorado Department of Education-Exceptional Student Services Unit	Colorado Department of Education	--
Michael Vente	Representative from higher education	Colorado Department of Higher Education	--
Stacey Zis	Statewide organization that represents members of school district boards of education	Colorado Association of School Boards	

SACPIE Advisory Members and CDE Support 2020	
Name	Organization
Dr. Darcy Hutchins, SACPIE Staffer	Colorado Department of Education-Office of Family, School, and Community Partnerships
Leah Porter	Colorado Commission on Higher Education

**Appendix B**

**SACPIE 2020 Parent Membership Application**

# 2020 Application for State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education

## Overview of SACPIE

On behalf of the Colorado Board of Education, the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE) invites applications from candidates to fill three (3) Parent Representative vacancies. Two of these vacancies are for parents who currently serve as the parent representatives on a District Accountability Committee (DAC) or School Accountability Committee (SAC).

In accordance with SB09-090, 22-7-301 C.R.S., the Council has been charged with the task of informing public education entities concerning best practices and strategies, aligned with National Standards for Family-School Partnerships, for increasing parent involvement in public education and promoting family and school partnerships in order to help improve the quality of public education and raise the level of students' academic achievement throughout the state.

As required by State law, parent membership appointments must be filled by parents of children who are:

- 1) Enrolled in a publicly funded preschool program; or
- 2) In any of grades kindergarten through twelve; or
- 3) In a state supported institution of higher education; and
- 4) Who represent student populations that are significantly represented in the state.

As required by State law, the State Board of Education, in appointing members to the Council, shall, to the greatest extent possible, select persons who will reflect the gender balance and ethnic and racial diversity of the state and will provide representation from throughout the state.

Membership appointments will begin in November 2020 and continue for three years, with an opportunity to continue for another term.

### Application Summary

*Applications are due September 30, 2020 to Darcy Hutchins ([hutchins\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto:hutchins_d@cde.state.co.us)).*

*Complete applications should include:*

- Contact and Background Information Form*
- Statement of Interest*
- Current CV, Resume, or Background Summary*
- Contact for Two References*

## SACPIE Responsibilities

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*Time Commitment.* Members are expected to be active participants in the Council and attend at least 75% of monthly meetings in the metro Denver area, or by audio conference call-in. Meetings are currently held quarterly on the third Tuesday of February, May, August, and November from 11:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

*Compensation.* SACPIE members can be reimbursed for mileage and meals (related to SACPIE business) and some required activities (e.g., trainings for the field).

*Application Process.* Completed Applications must be submitted to Darcy Hutchins by September 30, 2020 ([hutchins\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto:hutchins_d@cde.state.co.us); 303-562-8175).

Please see the SACPIE website (<http://www.cde.state.co.us/sacpie>) for more information about the Council.

### Application Checklist

	Completed Contact Information/Background Form
	Completed Statement of Interest
	Current Curriculum Vitae, Resume, or Background Summary
	Contact Information for Two References

## Contact and Background Information Form

SACPIE Application  
(Please Type)

### Contact Information

First Name:	
Last Name:	
Preferred Title (Mr., Ms., Mr., Dr.):	
Mailing Address:	
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	
Gender:	
Ethnicity:	
Congressional District of Residence:	
Child's Grade:	
Child's School:	
Congressional District (if known):	

Are you currently serving on a School Accountability Committee (SAC) or District Accountability Committee (DAC)? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to do so in the future? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

### References

Please provide contact information for two references that would be able to speak to skills/tasks needed of SACPIE applicants.

First Name:	
Last Name:	
Current Title:	
Organization:	
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	
Relationship:	

First Name:	
Last Name:	
Current Title:	
Organization:	
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	
Relationship:	

## Statement of Interest

### SACPIE Application

Provide a brief description of why you are interested in serving on the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education. The response should not take more than one full typed page. Type your response below:

## Return of Applications

Please email applications to Darcy Hutchins at [hutchins\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto:hutchins_d@cde.state.co.us) and note in the subject line: "SACPIE Application". Emailed applications are preferred.

To apply by mail, send to:

Darcy Hutchins  
Colorado Department of Education  
201 E. Colfax, Room 409  
Denver, Colorado 80203

All applications and supporting material must be received at the email or U.S. mail address above no later than 5:00 p.m. September 30, 2020. Questions regarding the application process may be directed to Darcy Hutchins at 303.562-8175.

SACPIE will review application materials and recommend candidates for the vacant positions to the State Board of Education by September 30, 2020.