

FSCP Presentations

Colorado Springs School District 11

Colorado Springs, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education



The Colorado Springs School District 11 (D11) formed a Family, Schools, and Community Partnership (FSCP) Collaborative with members from many areas of the district including preschool, MTSS, communications, adult and family education, Project Aware, restorative practices, engagement, special education, community liaisons, Title I, CLDE, community partners, parents, and students. This Collaborative used the P-12 FSCP rubrics from the Colorado Department of Education to focus their work for the district. The Collaborative was co-chaired by the DAC chair (a parent) and the D11 Engage department lead. Part of the focus for the Collaborative was to ensure the Board of Education knew about FSCP work happening in the district.

Research indicates that family, school, and community partnerships lead to improved student attendance, higher graduation rates, and a deeper sense of belonging. All D11 schools are working on FSCP but the Collaborative wanted to celebrate schools who were seeing benefits from going beyond the usual FSCP strategies and share this at the Board of Education meetings. Therefore, the Collaborative formed a celebrations subcommittee with a purpose to *Bright Spot* schools that were excelling at FSCP. This subcommittee was composed of Dr. Jennifer Schulte, MTSS Facilitator, Nancy Maresh Melo, Special Education Facilitator, and Velvet Stepanek, DAC Chair and parent.

The subcommittee reached out to area superintendents to find schools who were utilizing unique practices or were going above and beyond with FSCP. Collaborative members also recommended schools. The subcommittee attempted to celebrate schools from all areas of the district. The *Bright Spot* celebrated two schools per month with a PowerPoint presentation at board meetings. In addition, each school was presented with a framed certificate to celebrate at a staff meeting. The school names were also included in the District Accountability Committee (DAC) monthly newsletter, distributed to all schools. The subcommittee was also able to build on the relationship between the DAC chair and the superintendent to present the bright spots as part of the superintendent's report. Sharing at staff meetings also helped create a positive school climate.

The celebrations started in January 2023 and continued through May 2023. The following schools and/or events were bright spotted: Coronado High School, Rudy Elementary School, Wilson Elementary School, West Middle School, Stratton Elementary School, Adult and Family Education, Steele Elementary School, Sabin Middle School, Penrose Elementary School, and Mitchell Resource Night.

Positive feedback was received from the superintendent, the Board, and schools. One challenge included getting pictures and information from schools for the celebration presentation in a timely manner. It was also challenging to be included on staff meeting agendas at schools and required flexibility. Celebrating great work is always positive. Family, School, and Community Partnerships can make such a difference for success for every student. Sharing the work being done at other schools helps everyone!