

Building Transformational Impact

The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) is honored to lead a consortium of Colorado organizations deeply invested in creating equitable and aligned family learning systems through the development of the Colorado Statewide Family Engagement Center (CO SFEC). This five-year federally funded grant opportunity, one of eight awarded in 2022, intends to build upon the state’s established family engagement infrastructure to improve learning outcomes for children and families by positioning them as key designers and decision makers. Through this work, Colorado will join twenty other states engaged in elevating Family Engagement as a foundational component of successful family, school, community partnerships.



The CO SFEC Partners believe that:

If we;

- establish a strong governing council led by Colorado families and organizations;
- build the capacity of all stakeholders through professional learning, leadership development, and high-impact programs to create an effective and equitable continuum of practices;
- co-create solutions alongside families to improve student outcomes; and
- enhance the local and state policy environment to strengthen family, school, and community engagement;

Then the CO SFEC will affect Colorado families by offering high-impact cradle-to-career family, school, and community engagement to increase student opportunities, family well-being, and student academic achievement.

The CO SFEC, along with twenty other SFEC states, will focus on building the capacity of families, practitioners, and communities to work together to improve student outcomes through technical assistance, professional learning, and high-impact activities for families.

The Colorado SFEC at a Glance

Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the need to create family engagement systems that provide equitable and inclusive opportunities for all families to build capacity and reach their goals. Family engagement in education is a shared priority and shared responsibility among families, schools, and the broader community. The 2020 Colorado School District Community Needs Inventory results highlight K-3 reading loss, student mental health, disengagement of high school students, and Adult Education as key areas of focus to inform COVID recovery efforts.

Over the next five years, the CO SFEC unites leading expertise in the fields of family, school, and community engagement to best address Colorado’s COVID-19 learning response and recovery. It is our mutual philosophy that educators and communities must work alongside parents and students as core partners to co-create solutions that address changing and dynamic learning needs (Brooks, et al., 2021).



Partners With Deep Expertise Are Leading the Way

The COVID-19 pandemic has provided us with an opportunity to transform the current system into one that works for everyone. Through collaboration and innovation, families work side-by-side with the organizations that exist to serve them.

NCFL is proud to work alongside key partners who hold deep expertise and commitment to building equitable opportunities for all Colorado children and families.

Year One

The CO SFEC consortium will:

- Establish a strong governing council that builds the infrastructure for the successful implementation of the SFEC deliverables.
- Establish a family and practitioner-facing digital presence.
- Conduct a policy landscape analysis by engaging parent leaders.
- Administer a statewide family survey to determine needs.
- Launch Family Partnership Task Forces in five selected school districts.

Years Two–Five

The CO SFEC consortium will...

- Implement Family Literacy programs in five Title I schools.
- Identify regional training hubs to scale professional learning and family engagement activities.
- Highlight innovation and excellence through the Colorado Hub to scale effective family engagement practices in the state and elevate practices among the national network of family engagement centers.
- Readminister family survey in year four to identify impact and areas of growth.
- Establish a sustainability plan to ensure continued innovation in Colorado's Family Learning systems.

Black Parent Network (BPN)

The purpose of BPN is to create a network of parents advocating collaboratively for Black children in schools, school districts, and other civic and state arenas to positively impact Black students through advocacy, information, and active community engagement. BPN is focused on developing Black Excellence plans modeled after work in Denver Public Schools to assist schools in being inclusive and ensuring educational equity for Black students.

Colorado Education Initiative (CEI)

CEI is a statewide nonprofit that cultivates systems improvement and equity in Colorado's public education system. CEI has been a primary state education partner to the Governor's Office and CDE in Colorado's COVID-19 emergency response leadership and support, making them uniquely positioned to partner with NCFL in leading this effort for Colorado. CEI has built its 15-year reputation on high-quality implementation, thought leadership, and the ability to convene key stakeholders. CEI has worked with educators and community members on the ground in more than 150 urban, suburban, and rural school districts across Colorado and holds trusted experience working with diverse districts in various regions of the state. In 2021, CEI launched [FutureReadyFamilies.org](https://www.future-ready-families.org), a robust website with proven tools, resources, and strategies to empower parents and caregivers as engaged partners in their child's education and development. For more information on CEI, visit [ColoradoEdInitiative.org](https://www.ColoradoEdInitiative.org).

Colorado Department of Education (CDE)

The CDE provides leadership, resources, support, and accountability to the state's 178 school districts, 1,888 schools, over 53,000 teachers and over 3,200 administrators to help them build capacity to meet the needs of the state's approximately 905,000 public school students. CDE serves students, parents, and the general public by protecting public trust through ensuring adherence to laws, strong stewardship of public funds, and accountability for student performance. CDE's Office of Family-School-Community Partnerships sits within the Accountability and Continuous Improvement Office at CDE and was created in response to Colorado Senate Bill 13-193 increasing parent involvement in public schools. This office leads state-level infrastructure that is leveraged through the CO SFEC, including the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE) and Family School Community Partnerships (FSCP) P12 Framework, partner survey, and annual promising practices report. CDE is led by the Commissioner of Education, who serves as an ex-officio member on CEI's Board of Directors. For more information on CDE, visit CDE.State.Co.us.

Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition (CSPC)

CSPC has been promoting equity in education for over forty years. Established by a group of parents who wanted better for their children, CSPC teaches others about their rights as parents and effective ways to support their children's early development and education. CSPC offers programs, courses, and other community resources that support schools, parents, students, and childcare providers throughout Colorado. CSPC believes every child deserves access to high-quality education to bridge opportunity gaps by investing in educators and caregivers. CSPC has trained over 4,500 parents through its Parent Leadership Teams and over 2,800 fathers and mothers through its Los Padres/Las Madres programs. For more information on CSPC, visit CoParentCoalition.org.

Transformational Impact

Over the next five years and beyond, the CO SFEC will create a new path forward designed by and for families to improve outcomes for Colorado's children, families, and communities. As a result of the collaborative work of the Statewide Family Engagement Center, Colorado families will be better positioned to...

- maintain positive mental health and wellbeing,
- support their child's learning,
- understand their child's college and career options after they graduate from high school,
- build their own skills through increased high impact literacy and learning opportunities,
- use advocacy and leadership skills to work in full partnership of their child's school toward learning recovery and improved outcomes.

Colorado Schools will be better positioned to:

- Build internal capacity through the establishment of five training hubs that provide strong family engagement training and models and can be scaled across the state.
- Leverage the power of families learning together to increase academic achievement.
- Employ the use of inclusive practices to ensure all families have opportunities to engage and innovate.
- Ensure families have the information they need to help their children graduate on time and transition to college and career pathways that provide economic opportunities.

For more information about the Colorado Statewide Family Engagement Center, please contact COteam@familieslearning.org.

FamiliesLearning.org

