



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Seek Common Ground and Student Achievement Partners Announce Release of Family Guides for 2020-21

K-5 Guides in English and Spanish aim to help families navigate in a school year like no other

Seek Common Ground (SCG), the innovation incubator that supports state and community facing organizations pursuing equitable and sustainable education policies, today announced the release of Family Guides for grades K-5 in English and Spanish. The Family Guides were created with mathematics and English Language Arts experts at Student Achievement Partners (SAP), an organization dedicated to improving student achievement through actions grounded in research and evidence. The Guides are designed to help parents, grandparents, caregivers, friends — anyone helping a child learn during the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Covid-19 has disrupted every part of our lives but has particularly disrupted our children’s lives at school. As we work together to navigate these waters equitably, educators and families must maintain a shared focus on the most important knowledge and skills to prioritize at each grade level,” said Amy Briggs, President of SAP. The Family Guides are aligned to SAP’s [Priority Instructional Content](#), created with input from education experts and practitioners, which identifies instructional priorities in math and literacy for the 2020-21 school year grounded in the belief that all students deserve equitable access to grade-level standards – even in the context of disrupted instructional structures and time.

“No matter what school looks like for kids, and where school is happening, families are more engaged than ever,” said SCG Chief Executive Officer Sandy Boyd, “In these busy and stressful times, it is our hope that these grade by grade academic guides will make it just a little easier to help kids learn by providing information and targeted resources, as well as help families develop relationships with their teachers.”

Draft guides were available for review and SCG received feedback from parents, educators, and organizations that support families and parents before they were finalized. “We appreciate the feedback we received; it made the final guides stronger and more responsive to the needs of families,” said Boyd.

Each K-5 Guide includes a section on:

- What Your Child Should Know & Be Able to Do (in literacy and math)
- Everyday Activities to Support Learning
- Education Words
- Tips for Talking with Teachers
- Tools and Resources to Help

The final guides are available on Seek Common Ground's website, in English at <https://seekcommonground.org/family-guides> and in Spanish at <https://seekcommonground.org/guias-familiares>.

The Guides were developed for families AND for those who support them. Schools, districts, teachers, parent and family organizations are encouraged to use the Guides in their work and to help families understand more deeply the learning that is, and should be, happening in classrooms. To that end, the Family Guides have the most generous Creative Commons license and are fully customizable by teachers, schools, districts, and other organizations that wish to use them in their work. We also encourage the field to build supplemental materials to accompany the guides (particularly for English Language Learners and Special Education students) and to translate them into additional languages.

Comments or questions about the Family Guides, as well as requests for the native InDesign file for Family Guide customization, can be sent to familyguides@seekcommonground.org.

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Seek Common Ground (SCG), a project of the New Venture Fund, provides forums for state- and community-facing education advocates to promote local, authentic agenda setting to drive sustainable educational excellence and equity. Through the Action Accelerator, SCG provides an ecosystem for experimentation, connecting impacted communities to address vexing societal issues. SCG serves as an intermediary between national organizations and funders seeking to reach and empower state- and community-facing organizations and the state-and community-facing coalitions with whom we partner. Learn more at seekcommonground.org.

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Student Achievement Partners is a nonprofit dedicated to improving student achievement through actions grounded in research and evidence. Learn more at <https://achievethecore.org>

