



Best Practices Expo- Session 1 FAQ
North East ISD
10/5/21

Q1. Do you find that increasing student achievement by the capacity of parents and families is more challenging at the middle school level?

A1. In the past, that was our experience. Since we have started virtual classes...some Secondary campuses have seen an increase in participation; Be mindful of what classes you are offering. Topics do make a difference in attendance. Ask parents throughout the year on a regular basis for their needs and offer classes on those. Some of our campuses that have student uniform requirements will offer jean passes to the students whose parents attend a parenting class. Advertise that to the students and they will beg their parents to attend just so they can get the jean pass. Our Family Specialists will also set up a table with information at the football and volleyball games to target our parents of athletes. They will attend the band, choir, fine arts booster meetings to build relationships with those parents, etc.

Q2. Why so many different programs? Do each do different things?

A2. They all work a little different. **Seesaw and Dojo** are geared more toward elementary campuses and is a learning platform for student engagement. Parents can log onto these platforms to see their student's work. Teachers will upload pictures and videos of the students in action during the day. This gives our parents a firsthand look of what their child's work looks like. The Family Specialist will use these platforms to send out calendars, flyers, and information on upcoming campus events. **Blackboard Connect** is an online mass notification system we use to send out emails, text messages, phone calls, and social media channels. This platform is used for mass distribution of FE events and classes. It is important for parents to personally hear from the PFE specialist. **Skyward** is a software specializing in school management. It is more than just an online report card. Parents can create alerts for attendance, grades, and missing assignments. Parents fill out our annual compliance reports such as Migrant, Language, XXXX. Parents can pay for cafeteria fees, review graduation plans, review health/immunization records on file, review state assessment results, and much more. NEISD created a sample student/family for ES, MS, and HS so the PFE specialists can teach parents how to use the program with real samples of student profiles. **Zoom** has been our video online platform where we conduct and offer virtual classes. **Check with your administrators** to see what programs you have.

Q3. Please repeat who/how you are paying? I heard Title I and State Comp Ed.? I am not familiar with the latter.

A3. Check with your District because it truly depends on how many campuses you have that are Title I.... Title I can pay for some of these programs if your district is a 100% Title I district. You must be careful not to supplement. Understand the Supplant (means to replace) versus the Supplement (to build upon or add to)-Federal law prohibits recipients of federal funds from replacing state, local, or agency funds with federal funds. State Compensatory Education can fund extended learning such as **Ready Rosie**. These applications are funded through local funds at Northeast ISD. SCE funds can be used for programs and services designed to supplement the regular education program for students identified as at risk of dropping out of school.



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Q4. Is it possible to share what topics Northeast has offered in the past? This would give us a starting point when looking for topics to start with our parents.

A4. Hot topics have been "Human Trafficking", "Internet Safety", "How to build Resiliency in our Children", "How to apply and obtain Scholarships for College", "Diabetes Prep Meals", "Skyward Training", "HEB Read 3 Early Literacy classes", Triple P Parenting, Grandparents raising grandchildren, Compadre a Compadre-partnership with Children's Shelter--series of classes for Fathers only or Father Figures. Practical Parent Education is a good foundation curriculum for any family engagement program to use. It can be accessed here: <https://www.practicalparent.org/about-us.html>. It is a self-starter program that the FE liaisons or specialists can teach themselves.

Q5. Please share the counseling network.

A5. The slide from the presentation is on the Region 16 website, here: <https://www.esc16.net/page/title1swi.BestPracOct5.2021>

Q6. Can we get a link to your smore newsletter so we can see yours?

A6. PFE Initiative's newsletter: https://www.esc16.net/page/title1swi.3_newsletter%20-%20Copy
Woodstone Parent Resource s'more <https://www.smores.com/rs42w>

Q7. Lovel the newsletter- Do you send two Smores? In English and Spanish?

A7. If you upgrade your S'more account, they can translate to ANY language! Some Family Specialists send their newsletters in both English and Spanish all in one newsletter; others, have them independently sent.

Q8. Is S'more a program?

A8. Smore is a website you can use to create newsletter type documents in an online format. Here is the link: <https://www.smores.com/> The free version is great, but you will have some limitations. They are now ADA compliance, so we are able to attach the newsletter to our webpages.

Q9. Do you present in separate sessions, one English and one Spanish, or during the same session?

A9. It is important and offers better quality if one session is offered 100% in English and another session offered 100% in Spanish. Experience has shown us that the level of conversation is more meaningful when done in one language only.