

2018-19 Promising Practices - Effective Parent and Family Engagement (PFE)

This promising practice form is provided by the Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement Statewide Initiative to gather descriptive information from PK-12 schools on specific PFE strategies that have helped to increase parent & family engagement and student outcomes. Submission is voluntary.

Use this for activities that were funded with federal, state, or local dollars and/or other funding sources.

Next steps:

1. Complete all questions and save this document for your records.
2. Please submit one promising practice per submission form. (*You may submit more than one practice*)
3. Email completed form to terri.stafford@esc16.net Please cc a copy of completed form to your ESC contact(s).
4. Applications will be accepted from March 1, 2019 through May 8, 2019.
5. Promising practice submitted will be reviewed and scored by statewide committee and initiative staff.
6. Selected promising practices will be highlighted in the PFE newsletter and on the Title I, Part A PFE Statewide Initiative Website starting with the 2019-2020 school year.

General Information *(Replace the gray text with your specific data and narrative.)*

1. LEA or Campus Name:	LEA or Campus Alief ISD
2. School Name & Address:	School Name and Address 4250 Cook Road
3. Contact/Title:	First Name, Last Name, Position Title Shanceler Terry FACE Coordinator
4. Contact Email/Phone #:	Email Address/Phone # shanceler.terry@aliefisd.net 281-498-8110 ext. 29197
5. Name of practice and brief description of practice:	<p>Write a brief practice description in 150 words or less. Think about the key message or idea you want to convey about this practice. (This is your elevator speech.)</p> <p>Alief ISD provides an annual Family U Conference hosting over 700 staff and families. The conference is built upon building Dual Capacity, offering sessions for families, staff, Middle school STEM sessions and Magic School Bus sessions for our early learners. The FACE program focuses on four goals, families feeling welcomed, informed, engaged and equipped. During the Family U conference, all four goals are put into action by welcoming families into an engaging environment where families leave informed and equipped with new resources. It includes up to twenty sessions with a variety of topics for families who have children in all grade levels, and for staff. The day includes a keynote speaker, student performances, vendor booths, free food and hundreds of prizes. Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwFMseGzFOW</p>

6. Demographics:	Description of the populations served: <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban Size of District: <input type="checkbox"/> 1A <input type="checkbox"/> 2A <input type="checkbox"/> 3A <input type="checkbox"/> 4A <input type="checkbox"/> 5A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6A	Ethnicity %s: Hispanic: 54 African American: 29 White: 4 Asian: 24 Amer Indian/Alaskan Native: Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 2 or more: 1
7. Which funds, if any, helped to support the project? (Check all that apply)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ESSA Title I, Part A (Parent and Family Engagement) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This practice was (partially or fully) funded by local dollars. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - please specify:	
8. Grades impacted:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PK-Kindergarten <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elementary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Middle School/Junior High <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High School

Initial Planning and Implementation – Promising Practice

9. What is the goal of the practice?	<p>Explain goal of the practice. (limit to 75 words)</p> <p>The goal of the Family U Conference is to build dual capacity for both families and staff members by providing sessions and resources that inform and equip all participants leading to opportunities for all stakeholders to engage at a higher level in the education process, building a strong bridge between homes and schools and thereby impacting and ensuring academic success and achievement for all students.</p>
10. How was the practice identified as a need?	<p>Describe how practice was identified as a need.</p> <p>Through Alief's annual District Improvement Plan review process data reflected a need for families to be equipped with more tools on how to bridge home and school. As well the need to equip and inform our staff about the needs of our families and how to effectively equip them and build strong two-way communication channels was identified. Annually the district meets twice a year during our FACE advisory Council (families, community members and staff). The Council reviews annual survey data to identify and draft an annual plan to address FACE. Each campus has a FAME (Families Actively * Meaningfully Engaged) Committee that also meets monthly to focus on FACE and review data and feedback from staff and families.</p>
11. Describe the implementation.	<p>Describe the practice in as much detail as possible, such as logistical challenges/solutions. What happened that was compelling? (limit to 175 words)</p> <p>Based on the Dual Capacity Model, our Family U Conference focuses on building the skill set and knowledge base of both families and staff members. Our staff are provided with sessions taught by paid speakers and unpaid staff volunteers. Sessions focus on needs identified by families & administrators including sessions focused on: honoring and recognizing our families' funds of knowledge and diversity, connecting family engagement to student learning and building strong, trusting relationships. Our family sessions are linked to learning, relational, interactive and provide hands-on activities. Families provide annual feedback through surveys distributed during the conference. Our speakers are paid local and national speakers and staff volunteers.</p>

	<p>Breakfast and snacks are provided through donations and federal funding. Our day concludes with a national keynote speaker such as: Freedom Writers, Jonathan Sprinkles, Ako Kambon and others. We wanted to ensure our families could enjoy the conference and not worry about childcare, so we provide a conference for our middle school students - STEM focused and a Magic School Bus conference for PK-4 graders. Our high school students volunteer during the day. We have nearly 100 volunteers that play a part in this day. Our student sessions are hosted by our after-school program staff, YMCA, Houston Public Library and paid and volunteer staff. Our middle school students have their own keynote speaker as well to kick off their day. To assist with the challenge of many languages, interpreters are paid to assist during the day, along with student interpreters from many countries. We provide interpreter radios for all families as well. Our students entertain our families throughout the day and many community vendors provide resources to our families. One family member from each campus and their children are honored in our annual HALLOF FAME at the conference which includes their poster posted in the hall of FAME, a special video tribute to them and a VIP swag bag.</p>
<p>12. Who was involved in the planning & implementation? What was their role?</p>	<p>Describe the people and their roles involved in the project and their role in the promising practice. How does this practice contribute to building the capacity of your staff to increase family engagement? (limit to 75 words)</p> <p>The community, families, staff, vendors all play a role in making this conference a success. The Central staff team (8) each play a role in heading up different committees. Alief has a full time Family Liaison on each campus (approx. 40). Roughly 6-8 of the family liaisons help to co-chair each committee alongside Central staff. Committees include performers, speakers, donations, marketing, hospitality, decorating, volunteers, Magic School Bus and Middle School STEM,. We also partner with many departments in the district including the Alief Afterschool Program, Second Language Education, VIPS, Alief Police, Instruction Content Coordinators, Fine Arts, Nutrition, and campuses. All staff help facilitate and oversee each portion of the conference. Many organizations donate their time and staff including YMCA and the Houston Public Library. Also, over 50 stores and restaurants contribute to the day through donated prizes, food, bags and materials. Amerigroup serves as our annual sponsor each year.</p>
<p>Evaluating Effectiveness of Practice</p>	
<p>13. How does this promising practice link to increased student outcomes?</p>	<p>How did this practice support effective parent and family engagement practices, and lead to increased student performance outcomes? (limit to 75 words)</p> <p>The Family U conference leads to increased student performance because families are equipped with information and resources and informed of different strategies that they can use at home to assist their child(ren). Learning does not end at the conclusion of the conference; families return to their campuses and visit campus Family Centers to continue learning additional resources and connecting with staff members who also have had the opportunity to be informed and equipped at the conference.</p>
<p>14. How did you evaluate the practice and who was involved in the evaluation process? What was your measurable goal?</p>	<p>Describe the process used for evaluation and include the list of people involved (administrators, teachers, parents, etc.). What was your measurable goal? (limit to 75 words)</p> <p>The Family U Conference is evaluated annually through surveys that families submit at the conclusion of the conference. Hard copies of surveys are placed into Survey</p>

	<p>Monkey, and we are able to evaluate the conference based on the shared feedback. Each year we have a set goal of the number of families and staff members that we would like to see attend. We also connect the Family U Conference to our district annual assessment questions such as "Do you feel the district provides you with resources to help your child at home?" Our goal each year is to increase this percentage by 3%</p>
<p>15. What did you learn from the evaluation? What advice would you offer to someone wanting to implement the practice?</p>	<p>Describe lessons learned from the evaluation. (limit to 75 words)</p> <p>We have learned through past evaluations the following: Provide additional sessions for staff. We consistently have a waiting list to include staff. Staff receive PD hours for attendance. We have increased the number of sessions for families and increased the time from 45 minutes to an hour per session. We have provided a full lunch for the children. Snacks were not enough. We have learned to provide additional time for families to visit community vendors. We have learned to provide childcare not just for the little ones but activities and sessions for the older students.</p> <p>Advice: Begin planning a year in advance. be sure to have many partners in place. You do not need a large staff to implement the conference. Family volunteers and staff throughout the district are eager to be a part. Donations are out there. Have a team equipped to go out and ask.</p>
<p>16. Identify the most important factors and conditions necessary for the success of the practice.</p>	<p>What were the most important factors that made this practice successful? (limit to 75 words)</p> <p>Buy in is necessary to bring this conference together. This is certainly an "all hands on deck" event that requires the help of many. Conditions needed are again tied back to the Dual Capacity Model including: FACE must be embedded in the culture of the district (this conference helps with that). Resources and a strong infrastructure help sustain this best practice. Also, strong community partnerships are key in implementing this launching pad event for stronger relationships between schools and homes.</p>
<p>Sharing the Benefits</p>	
<p>17. Recommendations for other schools:</p>	<p>What recommendations or variations of the practice do you have for other LEAs or schools interested in replicating your project? (limit to 75 words)</p> <p>Start small. Our conference has grown over nine years. Build partnerships within the school district and in the community. Our volunteers and donations help make the event successful.</p>

