Title I, Part A
PFE Parent & Family ENGAGEMENT
STATEWIDE INITIATIVE

TEA
Texas Education Agency

Region 16
Education Service Center

## 2021 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.
4. Applications will be accepted from May 1, 2021 through November 3, 2021.
5. Promising practice submitted will be reviewed and scored by statewide committee and initiative staff.
6. Selected promising practices will be awarded at the 2021 Virtual Parental Involvement Conference, highlighted in the PFE newsletter and on the Title I, Part A PFE Statewide Initiative Website.
7. Use Arial font, size 12.

## General Information

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| 1. LEA (District) Name and Address: | LEA (District) Name and Address<br>**Rio Hondo ISD 215 W. Colorado, Rio Hondo, Texas** |
| 2. School (Campus) Name & Address: | School (Campus) Name and Address (if a single school is submitting) |
| 3. Contact Name and Title: | First Name, Last Name, and Title<br>**Dr. Mayte Lozano-Chapa, Executive Director, Support Services** |
| 4. Contact Email and Phone #: | Email Address and Phone #<br>**drmayte.chapa@rhisd.net   956-748-1084** |
| 5. Title of practice and brief description of practice: | RHISD Family and Community Engagement Department Food Pantry was started to provide food for those families in our community that are in need of assistance. Families are nominated through their teachers, counselors, or other staff members anytime throughout the year. During Covid-19, we saw the need of this type of assistance surge in our community. Working in partnership with agencies such as Read and Feed, community members, and district schools, we are able to sustain a basic food pantry. Children cannot learn if basic needs are not being met. "You cannot teach the mind if you do not reach the heart". |
| 6. Demographics: | **Description of the populations served:**<br>☒Rural<br>☐Urban<br>☐Suburban<br>**Size of District:**<br>☐ 1A<br>☐ 2A<br>☐ 3A | **Ethnicity %s:**<br>Hispanic: 96.07%<br>African American: 0%<br>White: 3.56%<br>Asian: 0%<br>Amer Indian/Alaskan Native:<br>Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander:<br>2 or more: 0% |

| | ☒ 4A<br>☐ 5A<br>☐ 6A | |
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| 7. Which funds, if any, helped to support the project? (Check all that apply) | ☐ESSA Title I, Part A (Parent and Family Engagement)<br>☒This practice was (partially or fully) funded by local dollars.<br>☒Other - please specify: Donations, Community Partners | |
| 8. Grades impacted: | ☒PK-Kindergarten<br>☒Elementary | ☒Middle School/Junior High<br>☒High School |

## Initial Planning and Implementation – Promising Practice

| 9. What is the goal of the practice? | Explain goal of the practice. (limit to 75 words)<br>The whole goal behind our district food pantry is to provide families in our community with the assistance needed so that their children can be successful in the classroom. "You cannot teach the mind if you do not reach the heart". |
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| 10. How was the practice identified as a need? | Describe how the practice was identified as a need. (limit to 75 words) We first started the RHISD Family and Community Engagement food pantry because of needs that were seen throughout our community. Our school population is predominantly Hispanic with 89% economically disadvantage. Data collected through surveys, school staff nominations, and then the negative impact of Covid-19 on families reflected the need for family assistance in this area. |
| 11. Describe the implementation. | Describe the practice in as much detail as possible, such as logistical challenges/solutions. What happened that was compelling? (limit to 225 words)<br>Our food pantry is stocked primarily through donations from different organizations and community members. Donations of canned goods are solicited throughout our community, school sponsored canned food drives and from "loving hearts" organizations. Nominations for assistance are accepted from anyone that sees families in needs. In can be a school staff member, friends, and or families themselves. Families who are nominated for assistance are also connected to different social services that may assist them further. |
| 12. Who was involved in the planning & implementation? What was their role? | 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 100 words)<br>The food pantry is run by our Family and Community Engagement staff and volunteers. Our Parent Liaison contacts community members and different organizations to obtain donations both monetary and/or food. Social media, emails, and phone calls are used to promote the need for donations throughout the year. |

## Evaluating Effectiveness of Practice

| 13. How does this promising practice link to increased | How did this practice support effective parent and family engagement practices, and lead to increased student performance outcomes? (limit to 75 words) Parents feel supported through our pantry. Our food pantry provides food, water, blankets, and heaters for those families in need throughout the year. Students whose basic needs are met do better in school. "You cannot teach the mind if you do not reach the heart". |
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| student outcomes? | |
| 14. How did you evaluate the practice and who was involved in the evaluation process? What was your measurable goal? | Describe the process used for evaluation and include the list of people involved (administrators, teachers, parents, etc.). What was your measurable goal? (limit to 100 words) Surveys, informal interviews, and the unexpected crisis due to COVID threw many families into situations where assistance was needed. Our goal was to assist as many families as possible through the generous donations of community partnerships and volunteers. |
| 15. What did you learn from the evaluation? What advice would you offer to someone wanting to implement the practice? | Describe lessons learned from the evaluation. (limit to 75 words) Through this project, we have learned that all parents in our community are eager to be part of their children's education. They want their children to be successful. The synergy between the school district and the community has been the success of our program. It continues to be the driving force in what we do. I cannot emphasize enough that children cannot be successful in the classroom if their basic needs are not being met. The most important advice that I can offer is to make sure that parents feel welcome and respected. |
| 16. Identify the most important factors and conditions necessary for the success of the practice. | What were the most important factors that made this practice successful? (limit to 100 words) Creating a family friendly atmosphere where parents feel welcome and where there is an atmosphere of trust is very important to the success of this project. Parents need to feel comfortable asking for assistance free from any type of judgement. Ultimately, any assistance provided to the parents is for the success of their children. Marketing of this project through social media platforms, phone, flyers, and emails has made it successful. We would not be successful if it was not for the generous donations from our community partners. Thank you for your loving hearts! |
| **Sharing the Benefits** | |
| 17. Recommendations for other schools: | What recommendations or variations of the practice do you have for other LEAs or schools interested in replicating your project? (limit to 75 words) The most significant aspect of a successful project such as this is full transparency to your community partners. Community partners should be able to see and or be provided with documentation upon request. The support from your community partnerships is very important so that all district resources are maximized. The other important aspect to a successful project is to make sure that parents feel welcome at all times. Parents need to feel comfortable approaching departments/agencies for assistance for their families. Study your community; be aware of what is going on and how it is effecting the students and the parents so that measures can be taken to meet their needs. Trust, empathy, and a servant heart are a must. |

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| **Other Information** | |
| 18. Include other information you would like to share: pictures, videos, attachments, references, and/or links. | Include visual aids/materials/information that helps to better understand the practice. (limit pictures to 10 or less & no more than 2 videos) Pictures need to reflect activity. https://rhisd-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/drmayte_chapa_rhisd_net/ElgL9SibdjVOhG8jeq1sU9IB6aUJpRvjbKtW7IdXNysgiQ?e=VdisxP <br><br> **EACH PICTURE, VIDEO OR ATTACHMENT MUST HAVE YOUR DISTRICT, CAMPUS AND PRACTICE NAME CLEARLY MARKED!** |
| **Special Considerations** | |
| 19. How does your practice align with the TEA Strategic Priorities? | Describe how your practice aligns with one or more of the 4 TEA Strategic Priorities. Our project aligns with TEA's strategic priorities in the area of <br> • Improving low performance in schools. <br> Empowering parents with the tools to assist their children is very important. Research shows that parental involvement and meeting student basic needs both correlate to increased student achievement. https://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Welcome_and_Overview/TEA_Strategic_Plan/ |
| 20. Is the principal or leader of the organization aware that you have submitted this practice? | ☒ Yes   ☐ No <br><br> (double click beside "X" to sign) <br><br> X _____ <br> Signature of person submitting application <br><br><br> X _____ <br> Signature of administrator or leader <br><br> <mark>Application will not be accepted without signatures</mark> |