

## 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](mailto: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.
7. Use Arial font, size 12.

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

1. LEA or Campus Name:	LEA or Campus <b>Northeast ISD</b>	
2. School Name & Address:	School Name and Address <b>Stahl Elementary 5222 Stahl Road, San Antonio, TX 78247</b>	
3. Contact/Title:	First Name, Last Name, Position Title <b>Lorraine Cirlos-Martinez, Family Specialist</b>	
4. Contact Email/Phone #:	Email Address/Phone # <b>Lcirlo1@neisd.net/210-407-7446</b>	
5. Name of practice and brief description of practice:	<p><b>Book Study Group for Parents</b> The key message for this practice was to get parents to come into an environment where it was safe to share, learn, and discuss their opinions about a book they would read over a course of 4 weeks. The book study group would also allow parents to build relationships with each other as they talked about their own experiences and compared stories that were relatable to this book.</p> <p>I chose a book titled "Mindsets for Parents, Strategies to Encourage Growth Mindsets for Kids". I became interested in the mindset topic because I started to see my own child have a fixed mindset when it came to trying to succeed in Math. As I began to research ideas on how to help my child have a growth mindset, I realized that the information I was finding would be helpful to the parents of my school.</p>	
6. Demographics:	<b>Description of the populations served:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban	<b>Ethnicity %s:</b> Hispanic: <b>68.1</b> African American: <b>7.8</b> White: <b>19.5</b>

	<input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <b>Size of District:</b> <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	Asian: <b>1.8</b> Amer Indian/Alaskan Native: <b>0.0</b> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: <b>0.1</b> 2 or more: <b>2.7</b>
7. Which funds, if any, helped to support the project? (Check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> ESSA Title I, Part A (Parent and Family Engagement) <input type="checkbox"/> This practice was (partially or fully) funded by local dollars. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - please specify: Comp Education	
8. Grades impacted:	<input type="checkbox"/> PK-Kindergarten <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elementary	<input type="checkbox"/> Middle School/Junior High <input 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 this practice is to introduce a class/workshop to parents who otherwise would have never been exposed to a “Book Study” group. Another goal was to introduce a topic that would give parents strategies that they could implement and use with their families while reading this book. I wanted the parents to be able to meet weekly and feel like they belonged to a support group even though it was a “book study” group.</p>
10. How was the practice identified as a need?	<p>Describe how practice was identified as a need. (limit to 75 words)</p> <p>The practice was identified as a need by talking with parents and asking them if they would enjoy reading a book that would help their children be more successful in life. Parents showed interest when I told them I would be starting a book study group. They were excited to receive a book that they could take home and read. The parent became the example to their children by reading and preparing weekly for their book study.</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>The implementation went well. The practice took place in my classroom weekly. I wanted this practice to be much more than just a “book study” group. I wanted parents to feel that by belonging to this group they would be able to express their concerns freely, share openly and walk away with an “a ha” moment. I started each class with a motivational video on mindsets or a Ted Talk clip before we began the book study discussion. Luckily, I was not faced with any challenges. I feel what was most compelling about this practice was seeing the parents getting excited about what they were learning. Many of the parents had never heard of fixed or growth mindsets so it was great to see their interest grow on this topic as we met each week to discuss the book.</p>
12. Who was involved in the planning & implementation? What was their role?	<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>I am a Family Specialist and my role was to find a different way to reach parents by exposing them to a new way of learning. I planned this practice on my own. The Lead Family Specialist helped by promoting the book study through her monthly newsletter. This practice focused on building capacity within families. The book</p>

study allowed them to receive training during discussions that would enhance their parenting skills. As parents begin to use what they learn about mindsets with their children at home, teachers will begin to see a mind shift in their students as they take on challenging lessons.

### Evaluating Effectiveness of Practice

13. How does this promising practice link to increased student outcomes?  
 How did this practice support effective parent and family engagement practices, and lead to increased student performance outcomes? (limit to 75 words)  
 This practice allows parents to learn a new concept and to implement it at home with their children. There are questions in the book that they can use with their own child to discover if their child has a fixed or growth mindset. It gives them tools to use at home to build a growth mindset in their child. Students with growth mindsets will help to increase student performance over time.

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 75 words)  
 The evaluation process is still in progress. I received verbal positive feedback on the last day of our book study. They discussed what they liked about the book and gave suggestions on what other types of books they wanted to read. I also asked to share what we could do differently. I will be sending out an on line survey to the parents that attended the book study for more feedback before the end of the school year.

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)  
 I learned that parents want to learn from each other. They want to share their successes and learn how to deal with their failures. They want to be able to do this in a safe learning environment where they are not judged. The book study group offered this for them.

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 75 words)  
 One of the most important factors that made this practice successful was my role as a moderator in the book study discussions. I made sure that everyone felt that his or her voice was heard. I wanted the parents to be able to express their opinions in constructive ways that would lead to more discussions. Another important factor was the parents always attending and prepared for discussions.

### 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)  
 I would recommend to other schools that would like to start a “book study” group to survey the parents ahead of time to see what their interest might be before you choose a book. Choose a book that would be relatable to all parents from any type of background/socioeconomic status. Make sure you make your book study group a place where all parents feel like they can voice their opinions without judgement.

### Other Information

<p>18. Include other information you would like to share: pictures, videos, attachments, references, and/or links.</p>	<p>Include visual aids/materials/information that helps to better understand the practice.</p> <p>Videos used for my promising practice  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiiEeMN7vbQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiiEeMN7vbQ</a>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLPFaOvhlKw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLPFaOvhlKw</a>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVG4wgCqeEQ&amp;t=416s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVG4wgCqeEQ&amp;t=416s</a>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qe4swkE_h6M">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qe4swkE_h6M</a>  <a href="https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01GIGLFZ8/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&amp;btcr=1">https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01GIGLFZ8/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&amp;btcr=1</a>            (Link to book I purchased for the book study)</p>
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**Special Considerations**

<p>19. How does your practice align with the TEA Strategic Priorities?</p>	<p>Describe how your practice aligns with the one or more of the 4 TEA Strategic Priorities.</p> <p><a href="https://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Welcome_and_Overview/TEA_Strategic_Plan/">https://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Welcome_and_Overview/TEA_Strategic_Plan/</a></p> <p>The practice aligns with the strategic priority: Improve low performing schools          The book study on mindsets gives parents tips/tools to help their children believe that they can achieve and succeed. Parents were taught how to praise the process by celebrating their child’s effort. The book study group learned about the “power of yet”. They learned new vocabulary to use at home to encourage learning so their children will not give up when things get tough in the classroom. When parents use these new skills at home, their children will then come to school with a growth mindset and it will show in their approach to learning in the classroom.</p>
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**Permission Required**

<p>20. Is the principal or leader of the organization aware that you have submitted this practice?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes    <input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><i>Jonathan C. Martin</i>          _____          Signature of person submitting application</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i>          _____          Signature of administrator or leader</p> <p><i>5/8/19</i>          _____          Date</p> <p><i>5/8/19</i>          _____          Date</p> <p><i>Application will not be accepted without signatures.</i></p>
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