

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.
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 Thrall Elementary, Middle, and High School	
2. School Name & Address:	School Name and Address Thrall ISD 201 S. Bounds Street Thrall, TX 76578	
3. Contact/Title:	First Name, Last Name, Position Title Amanda Bexley, Guidance Counselor	
4. Contact Email/Phone #:	Email Address/Phone # abexley@thrallisd.org 512-898-5293	
5. Name of practice and brief description of practice:	Showcase of Excellence. The Showcase of Excellence is an annual event that provides students the opportunity to showcase the amazing things they have learned and created throughout the year. This is a come and go opportunity for parents and the community to meet the district leadership team and learn all about Thrall ISD offerings. Visitors had the opportunity to explore exhibits from all grade levels that filled the gym, library, classrooms, and hallways. The evening started with dinner featuring old-fashioned Thrall Dogs and a performance of the high school's One Act Play titled, One Seriously Ugly Duckling. The Superintendent's Student Advisory Council greeted parents and community members and gave them a student-created guide to the evening's interactive exhibits. Students presented projects, activities, and hands-on demonstrations from every subject including music, art, history, English, math, and science.	
6. Demographics:	Description of the populations served: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban Size of District:	Ethnicity %s: Hispanic: 31.3 African American: 1.6 White: 63.6 Asian: Amer Indian/Alaskan Native: .1

	<input type="checkbox"/> 1A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2A <input type="checkbox"/> 3A <input type="checkbox"/> 4A <input type="checkbox"/> 5A <input type="checkbox"/> 6A	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0 2 or more: 3.2
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 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 Showcase of Excellence is to provide students the opportunity to showcase their own learning and to expose members of the community to the diverse learning happening in our schools.</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>Formerly, Showcase of Excellence was held on the same night with each campus remaining at their individual location. This posed a problem for parents with children on multiple campuses. It also limited the student’s exposure to things going on only at their current campus.</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>Once the date and location were established by district leaders, a district-wide survey was sent out for everyone to provide their grade level, exhibit name, exhibit description, etc. (see attachment for detailed form). We faced a logistical challenge when trying to arrange exhibits according to subject. There was inadequate space in certain areas, and then too much unused space in others. So, instead of separating by subject, we had a heterogeneous mixture of exhibits throughout the school, and to ensure all were easy to locate, we provided a student-created map of the school with exhibit locations labeled for ease of use. Seeing the way curriculum aligned/spiraled and how learning was enhanced throughout their time in school was compelling. For most students, this was the first time they saw student work outside of their home campus.</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>A.Bexley-Showcase Director T.Hooker-Superintendent, co-sponsor of dinner J.Pokorny-HR Director, co-sponsor of dinner S.Maruska-Elementary Principal, responsible for elementary staff/exhibits K.Luton- Middle School Principal, responsible for middle school T.Dube- High School Principal, responsible for high school C.Strnad- responsible for all publishings (informational brochure, slideshow that played continuously throughout the evening, newspaper pictures and article) A.Vrbsky-Middle School Showcase Liason Joan Sladek-Responsible for all thing’s maintenance-related (tables, HVAC, facility use)</p>

Evaluating Effectiveness of Practice

13. How does this promising practice	<p>How did this practice support effective parent and family engagement practices, and lead to increased student performance outcomes? (limit to 75 words)</p>
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link to increased student outcomes?	Knowing that their projects would be on display for parents and the community, students were highly engaged in producing their best work. Parents were also more involved in their child's project knowing their child's work would be on display.
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) To evaluate the effectiveness of the Showcase of Excellence, a satisfaction/feedback survey was sent out following the event to all parents, teachers, and other members of the community. The district leadership team met following the event to discuss the data received from the surveys. Our overall goal was to have at least 90% satisfaction, and we exceeded that goal with an overall satisfaction rate of 94.3%.
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) A lesson learned was that 2½ hours is too long with all campuses together. The extra time needed for commuting between campuses was no longer needed, so shortening the event to no more than 2 hours was a common suggestion received. The biggest lesson learned from the feedback we received was that parents LOVED doing this all together in one location, which better reinforces the need to continue doing it this way in the future.
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 important factor to make the event successful was collaboration amongst all stakeholders. From parents and students to staff and community members, we were able to ensure that all aspects of our student's academic lives were showcased. The single biggest factor in event success was student participation and buy-in.

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 suggest keeping the following things in mind when replicating our Showcase of Excellence; -Have a committee that consists of members from all campuses/departments to ensure all areas are well taken care of. -Meet regularly before the event and after the event to reflect and make notes for things that could have gone better for next year. -Have an easy to navigate map of the school with exhibit locations identified
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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. Attachments are attached separately on the email submission.
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Special Considerations

19. How does your practice align with	Describe how your practice aligns with the one or more of the 4 TEA Strategic Priorities.
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<p>the TEA Strategic Priorities?</p>	<p>https://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Welcome_and_Overview/TEA_Strategic_Plan/</p> <p>The Showcase of Excellence is an opportunity for the school to invite potential transfer students, future employee candidates, etc. to highlight all the great things happening at Thrall ISD. For example, this year there was a homeschool family that was invited by a school board member to attend and the following week they made the decision to send their kids to our school starting next school year. The college and career connection were also evident throughout the event. For example, there was an informational booth available that had college resources for students/parents (financial aid information, application information, college swag, facts and figures, and more). The foundation of reading and math was also evident in the individual exhibits, especially at the elementary level which carries over to middle and high school.</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="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 583 1234 661">Amanda Bexley</td> <td data-bbox="1234 583 1573 661">4/11/2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 661 1234 703">Signature of person submitting application</td> <td data-bbox="1234 661 1573 703">Date</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 703 1234 781">Sherri Maruska</td> <td data-bbox="1234 703 1573 781">4/11/19</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 781 1234 823">Signature of administrator or leader</td> <td data-bbox="1234 781 1573 823">Date</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>Application will not be accepted without signatures.</i></p>	Amanda Bexley	4/11/2019	Signature of person submitting application	Date	Sherri Maruska	4/11/19	Signature of administrator or leader	Date
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