

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 Wood Middle School	
2. School Name & Address:	School Name and Address 14800 Judson Rd.	
3. Contact/Title:	First Name, Last Name, Position Title Ruby Morris, Family Specialist	
4. Contact Email/Phone #:	Email Address/Phone # rmorri1@neisd.net/210-356-6261	
5. Name of practice and brief description of practice:	Home visits before the beginning of the school year- We focused on students that were struggling academically and with behavior. Our goal was to establish a strong relationship with their parents to ensure a successful school year. Our questions included: What can we do to help your child have a successful year? Tell us about your child, what motivates them? What concerns do you have about the upcoming school year? We would then share this information with the student's teachers and made sure they had the information they needed before school began.	
6. Demographics:	Description of the populations served: <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suburban Size of District: <input type="checkbox"/> 1A <input type="checkbox"/> 2A <input type="checkbox"/> 3A	Ethnicity %s: Hispanic: 66.27 African American: 14 White: 3 Asian: 60 Amer Indian/Alaskan Native: 7.8 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: .5 2 or more:

	<input type="checkbox"/> 4A <input type="checkbox"/> 5A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6A	
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:	
8. Grades impacted:	<input type="checkbox"/> PK-Kindergarten <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary	<input checked="" 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>Our goal is to form nurturing and positive relationships between parents and administration. We want parents to know that we will always do what's best for their child and to be able to do this we want to learn more about their child. They are the parents and they know so much more than we do about them. We want to know their likes, dislikes and things that they struggle with at school. It gives us a good foundation to start helping the child be successful at school whether it's academically or with behavior.</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>We wanted to find a way to form better relationships with our parents, especially those we had struggled with throughout the year. We also wanted to identify those incoming 6th graders that were struggling academically and with their behavior. We wanted to focus on those students and their parents. We wanted to start the school year in a positive way and have the students look forward to coming to our school and have their parents on board with a plan for their child.</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>Our leadership team (principal, assistant principals, counselors, teachers) helped identify these students and we also asked for input from the elementary school principals for our incoming 6th graders. We planned to make the visits before school started. We made a schedule so that that our principal and assistant principals and the Family Specialist would be able to make the home visits together. We made sure that one of the principals was present at each home visit. We always kept the visit positive and the parents began to warm up to us. When we asked about their child and concerns they had we listened intently and asked questions. This changed the family's attitude about our visit. We also spoke to the students and let them know how excited we were to see them at school and made them feel part of the plan to help them have a successful year.</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>Our principal, assistant principals and the Family Specialist were involved in the planning. Our goal was to make it a positive home visit and to learn as much as we could about the parents and our student. Our questions for our parents were: How can we help your child have a successful school year? What can you tell us about your child that we don't know? How can we support you in helping your child at home? What can we do differently this school year to make it a successful year for your child? What concerns do you have?</p>

Evaluating Effectiveness of Practice

13. How does this promising practice link to increased student outcomes?	<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>When making these home visits we would ask parents what they believed was the reason their child was struggling in math or reading. The parents gave us much needed information on what their children's struggles were. This information was given to their teachers and teachers knew how to begin planning for this student. It helped that teachers knew the parents and the student's concerns and challenges before the school year started.</p>
14. How did you evaluate the practice and who was involved in the evaluation process? What was your measurable goal?	<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>We noticed that after our home visits, parents felt very comfortable coming up to our principal and our assistant principals with questions, concerns and suggestions. The parents that we struggled with to form relationships, seemed to trust us more and they seemed to understand that we truly cared about their child. We saw a more positive change with the way our parents looked at administration.</p>
15. What did you learn from the evaluation? What advice would you offer to someone wanting to implement the practice?	<p>Describe lessons learned from the evaluation. (limit to 75 words)</p> <p>We decided that we would do these home visits every year from now on. They are invaluable. To be able to talk to parents in a very laid-back setting and get to know them and their children was incredible. We had parents that couldn't believe they had the principal in their living room discussing their child's education and their wellbeing. It was very impactful for parents.</p>
16. Identify the most important factors and conditions necessary for the success of the practice.	<p>What were the most important factors that made this practice successful? (limit to 75 words)</p> <p>In making our home visits we made our parents feel that they had much to contribute to the success of their child. They know their child much more than we do. We valued that information that was given to us and we put it to good use. The home visits were always positive. We never discussed behavior challenges from the past. Some parents shared it with us but we really emphasized that the child always started with a clean slate at our school and if challenges did arise we would work on them together as a team to get their child the support and help they needed.</p>

Sharing the Benefits

17. Recommendations for other schools:	<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>We recommend that administration really take the time to identify these students and the approach that you will take with each family. At the beginning of the home visits some of our parents were not very friendly and asked why we were visiting them. Our answer was that we wanted to personally welcome our students and parents to the new school year. We never brought up any behavior or academic history. We always kept the visit positive and the parents began to warm up to us.</p>
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Other Information

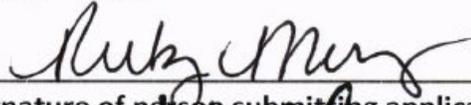
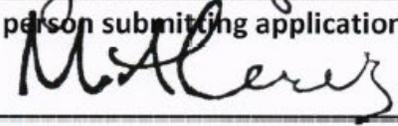
18. Include other information you would like to	<p>Include visual aids/materials/information that helps to better understand the practice.</p>
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<p>share: pictures, videos, attachments, references, and/or links.</p>	<p>The idea came from a training in Harvard that I was very fortunate to attend. This is a video that and an article that really sparked our school to look at doing these home visits. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbyhao0FtaQ&list=UUvEdSQawiMKMU-muuc1j0YA</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. https://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/Welcome_and_Overview/TEA_Strategic_Plan/ This practice aligns with Strategic Priority Two: Build a Foundation of Reading & Math. One of our criteria for the home visits were students who were struggling academically.</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>✓ Yes No</p>	
	<p></p>	<p>05/07/19</p>
	<p>Signature of person submitting application</p>	<p>Date</p>
	<p></p>	<p>05/07/19</p>
<p>Signature of administrator or leader</p>	<p>Date</p>	
<p><i>Application will not be accepted without signatures.</i></p>		