



The Family Learning Connection

Uniting Families,
Educators, & the
Community



We want to hear from you!

What are you doing at home to be more engaged with your child? We would love to hear the fun traditions, habits, routines, other things you are doing! Some ideas you could share include:

- homework routines
- conversation starters
- traditions that teach your child about kindness, giving, acceptance, or more
- fun games you play with your child
- how you get your kids engaged in reading, math, or other subjects
- ways you communicate with your child's teachers or school



Our Newsletters are online! Visit <https://www.smores.com/u/texaspfe> to translate.

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SPRING BREAK FUN

BY PFE STATEWIDE INITIATIVE

LEARNING & FUN

- Zoo or Aquarium: Plan a visit to the zoo or an aquarium. You can see and learn about animals.
- Science Centers: Explore places with hands-on science activities and space shows.
- Family Fun at Home: Have a series of family game nights. Play board games, card games, or video games. It's a great way to spend time together and have a lot of fun.
- Arts and Crafts: Get creative with arts and crafts activities. You can make art at home, create a family scrapbook, or try art workshops in your community.
- Movie Nights: Set up movie nights during spring break. Watch your favorite movies and make it cozy with popcorn, blankets, and pillows.
- Library Fun: Many local libraries have cool spring break programs like story time, crafts, and learning activities. Check with your library to see what's going on.



Remember, the most important thing is to have a wonderful time with your family during spring break. It's a time to bond, explore, and make memories.



DISCOVER COOL PLACES

- Visit Museums: Texas has great museums. You can explore history, science, and art museums to learn new things and have fun.
- Local History: Learn about your local history by visiting special places in your community.
- Attend Fun Events: Look for local events like music festivals, art shows, and theater performances happening during spring break.

ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS

- Picnics and Parks: Texas has many lovely parks. You can plan a family picnic, go for a nature walk, or just have fun outside at your local park.
- Camping Adventures: If you like the idea of camping, Texas has a lot of places to camp. You can experience the outdoors and sleep under the stars.
- Biking and Trails: Take your bikes for a spin on some beautiful trails. Whether you're in the Hill Country or by the Texas coast, there are trails for different skill levels.

THE PATH TO THE FUTURE OF EACH CHILD

BY PFE STATEWIDE INITIATIVE

Helping your kids plan for college and future careers can be difficult to do by yourself. However, this is important for their success. In this article, we'll share simple tips to make this process easier for you and your child.

1

First, let's talk about understanding what your child loves to do. Ask them about their hobbies and what they enjoy learning about. This will help them figure out what they want to do in the future. College and career planning is about finding the right path based on their interests and dreams. There are many free career aptitude tests online to assist if needed.

2

Post-Secondary education can be expensive, but there are ways to make it more affordable. Scholarships are like rewards for your child's hard work or talents. They can get them for being good at school, sports, or other things. Financial help, like grants and loans, can also help pay for college or certification programs. For local scholarships, speak with your child's school counselor. There are also many state and federal scholarships available online.

3

When it's time, your child will need to apply to post-secondary institutes. These could include colleges, universities, trade schools, or internships. This means picking the right ones, filling out applications, and writing essays. You can help by making sure they gather the needed documents and meet deadlines. It's also essential to talk to them about their dreams and goals. For the proper documentation needed, contact the post-secondary institution of your child's interest.

4

Remember, post-secondary education is just one step toward a bright future. Talk to your child about what they want to do as a job. Encourage them to try internships, part-time jobs, or volunteering in areas they like. Real-life experience is a great way to learn and prepare for their future career.



ENTRANCE EXAM OPTIONS

BY PFE STATEWIDE INITIATIVE

In order to attend a post-secondary entity such as college, trade schools, certificate programs, and/or the military, students will often be required to submit testing scores. A few of these tests are explained below as well as what parents can do to help their child with these tests.

TSIA2 (TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE ASSESSMENT)

The TSIA2 is the revised version of the TSI and TSIA. It is a series of placement tests for students to determine if they are ready for college-level courses.

What Parents Can Do:

- Speak with your child's school for more information such as testing dates, exemptions, and how to prepare.
- Help your child practice if they need it. There are many study tools available online.
- Visit with your child's teachers to see how they are doing in school.



The ACT is a test for older students, usually in high school. It checks how skilled they are in English, math, reading, and science. Many colleges look at ACT scores when students apply.

What Parents Can Do:

- Help your child sign up for the ACT when the time is right.
- Think about ACT classes to get ready for the test. There are many study tools available online.
- Look at colleges and what they want from the ACT.
- Visit act.org for more information.



The SAT is another test for high school students, but it's not as common as the ACT in Texas. It checks a student's ability in reading, writing, and math. Some colleges accept SAT scores too.

What Parents Can Do:

- Check which test the colleges your child wants to apply to prefer.
- Help your child practice with SAT materials. There are many study tools available online.
- Make sure they take the test early enough for college deadlines.
- Visit satsuite.collegeboard.org for more information.

This list is not extensive. Other tests could include local assessments such as unit tests, mid-terms, and finals as well as College Level Examination Programs (CLEP), the ASVAB for military, or STAAR tests. Also, many high schools use federal funds to pay for students to take some of these tests the first time. Remember, these tests are just one part of school life. What's most important is that your child gets a well-rounded education. That means doing well in school but also having fun with hobbies and activities.

EMPOWERING PARENTS: YOUR VOICE MATTERS

BY PFE STATEWIDE INITIATIVE

Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) states schools that receive Title I, Part A funding must involve families in making important decisions about the required parent and family engagement program.

First off, ESSA says schools have to ask for your thoughts when they are making or changing documents about family engagement. These documents include the School PFE Policy and the School-Parent Compact, both of which outline aspects such as how parents can help their kids with schoolwork or how the school will communicate with families. Your input is valuable, so do not hesitate to share your ideas with your school.

Additionally, ESSA requires schools to come up with activities and training for parents, and they need your input to make sure these are enjoyable and helpful. These events can be a great way for parents to get involved in their child's education, so it's important that they are things families actually want to do. If you have any ideas or want to learn more about what your school is planning, make sure to contact your child's school.

Furthermore, ESSA wants to make sure all families can participate in discussions and decision-making. This means schools should provide ways for families who speak different languages or need additional assistance to be involved. Your school should make sure everyone's voice is heard and valued.

Lastly, it is important for schools to check if the things they are doing to involve families are actually working. This means asking families if they like the things the school is doing and if it is helping them be more involved in their child's education. If something is not working, schools can make changes to improve it, but they need your feedback to know what is working and what is not.

In conclusion, Section 1116 of ESSA is all about making sure schools and families work together to support student success. If you want to learn more about how your school is meeting these requirements or have ideas to share, do not hesitate to contact them. Your engagement is key to helping your child and other children in the school community thrive!

family

2024 PFE STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

MAKE YOUR MARK

Each year, the Parent and Family Engagement Statewide Initiative hosts a conference for parents as well as educators. Talk to your district about how Title I, Part A and/or ESSER III funds can be used to send parents. The 2024 PFE Statewide Conference will be held in Houston, Texas on October 16-18, 2024. For more information, visit <http://r16.us/pfeconference>.



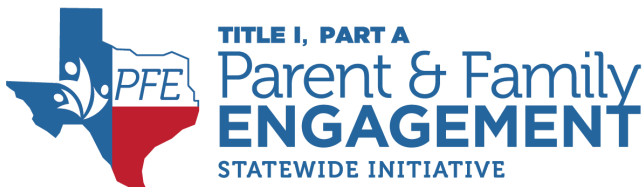
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<http://r16.us/pfenewslettersurvey>

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Title I, Part A Statewide Parent and Family Engagement Initiative
1601 S. Cleveland Street
Amarillo, Tx 79102
Telephone: (806)677-5188
t1pfe@esc16.net

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