

ECASB Member School Districts

Sharing Our Best

A Compilation of Best Practices and Successes in Collaboration

An initiative of Promoting Partnerships in Public Education, Inc.

District: Teacher Center of Cheektowaga (A number of districts represented)

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Title of Best Practice: WNY “Share” Groups

Description: The Teacher Center of Cheektowaga sponsors five (5) WNY share groups – FACS (Family and Consumer Science), FLAPPERS (Foreign Language), Speech, Biology and Chemistry. *There are members of each group that teach at Cheektowaga Central.* Teachers from the WNY area meet on a monthly basis to share curriculum, lessons, resources, public relations, etc. Speakers are brought in to enhance the use of technology in the classroom and to share current educational philosophies.

Partners: There are a number of Western New York school districts involved. They include, Cheektowaga Central, West Seneca, Maryvale, Cleveland Hill, Lake Shore, Alden, Kenmore, North Tonawanda, Niagara Falls, Starpoint, Pembroke, Lackawanna, and Buffalo. Speakers also include professors from local colleges such as Niagara University, ECC and Villa Maria.

Need addressed: Understanding of curriculum requirements, sharing of resources such as lessons, suppliers and speakers, helping new teachers adjust.

Cost/resources used: Due to the stimulus money this year, there is no fee. Registration is through the teacher center and is facilitated by local teachers. Four of the groups have all their meetings at Cheektowaga Central. The FACS group rotates each month to a different school district.

Briefly describe how you implemented this: We worked through Cheektowaga Teacher Center to advertise the groups. They send out information through teacher center newsletters. The FACS group sent letters to the individual school districts.

What were the outcomes:

- Since a wide variety of school districts participate, we are able to share and create a variety of resources for our districts. We learn to personalize what we share and then blog about it (FACS) to share further. We use the interlibrary loan system to share DVD's, books, etc.

Please complete this sentence:

This program serves as an example to others because: This does not cost the teachers or district anything. Even when we are not “on task” the networking we have set up is fabulous.

Are there other supporting materials to share? This is the best use of our teacher center. They have helped coordinate it and organize things. The teacher center provides the support but has taught us to function on our own as needed. Each teacher walks away with materials after each meeting.