





I was lucky enough to be invited to speak at the Texas Success Mentors Summit a few weeks ago. Several people new to the project from the audience expressed some of the same concerns that your school district has expressed. They had school personnel from two of the Success Mentor Schools answering questions. Both of them said they had NO problems with parents expressing concerns, worrying about why or even worrying about a “stigma”. They said that the parents were so pleased their children were chosen. And they emphasized that they used the strength-based approach that I described above.

So to make this a checklist:

1. Someone calls the parent with a smile on their face.
2. They give a positive message about how this is a great opportunity for their youngster.
3. They follow up with a written permission letter – also very positive.
4. And, by the way, you take the same positive tone with the kids.

Hope this is helpful.

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