

EVENT IDEAS & HOW TO'S

NATIONAL
SchoolChoice
JAN 26 - FEB 1, 2025
WEEK



event guide

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Want to celebrate National School Week but not sure where to start?

Here are some of our favorite quick and easy events that still have a huge impact. Check out the ideas on the following pages for inspiration on how you can start celebrating your school.



Spirit week

Have a spirit week in which students and teachers wear differently themed attire each day of the week. Don't forget your NSCW yellow scarves.



PRO TIP

Be sure to dedicate one day as YELLOW DAY to show support for school choice. Consider theme days you've never done in the past. Some of our favorite themes are: decades day, tourist day, and dress like your teacher day.



PLAN

What different themes would you like to include in your spirit week? Some ideas include: crazy hair day, DIY crazy sock day, pajama day, Disney day, cultural day, career day, formal Friday, etc. Will you have other activities throughout the week? Can you collect a donation of themed items in advance for students who may not have anything to wear?



SCHEDULE

Which theme will be on which day of the week? Get this on the books as early as possible and inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send an invitation to families and staff to announce spirit week, with a calendar outlining each theme, and request that they join you in the celebration.



FINALIZE

Are there any details you left out? Be sure to send a reminder email to everyone involved the day before so they don't forget their spirit wear.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Make sure to take amazing photos of everyone in their spirit attire having a great time and showing off their yellow NSCW scarves!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Order additional scarves if needed
- ☐ Create a give/take box for spirit donations
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Set up scarves to hand out
- ☐ If there are other activities, set them up
- ☐ Set out the spirit box for those who need extra attire
- ☐ Take photos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Morning announcements

Voice announcements are a great way to remind and rev up listeners about school choice awareness, upcoming NSCW celebrations and spotlight special individuals.



PRO TIP

These can be pre-recorded phone calls to guardians and intercom calls to classrooms. If your school already uses a communication app or platform, that will work well in addition to the voice announcements!



PLAN

Decide when to add your NSCW announcement time spots. If you are sending a pre-recording, will it be in addition to other school-related news, or will it have more impact as its own special recording? Should you share about any partners who are helping with the event? Will you invite guardians to contact you with questions, volunteering, or to provide anything? Will you need a reminder to turn in permission slips?



SCHEDULE

How many days before your event will you begin making announcements? Will they be scheduled at the same time each day? If you are using a school communications platform, will you send something weekly, or make it a fun countdown?



INVITE

Send your pre-recorded phone message and an email to families informing them of your event and the impact that it will have. If you are using a school communications platform, send your message there in place of an email.



FINALIZE

Do you have everything you need to effectively share this announcement? Do you have your speech outlined? Here is a sample: *"Good afternoon students and staff of _____ school! This announcement is a friendly reminder that National School Choice Week is January 26th through February 1st. We will be celebrating this important week with our _____ event(s). Remember to tell your family and friends how much you love your school and invite them to celebrate with us!"* Remember to personalize it and add your own style!



PHOTOS AND FUN

Pictures are worth a thousand words, so take pictures of the ways your school announces, prepares, and celebrates the arrival of National School Choice Week!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Draft your announcement script and any accompanying messages
- ☐ Test all needed tools or equipment
- ☐ Record your phone voice recordings
- ☐ Set the announcement date(s)
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Purchase or get supplies donated
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Make your announcements as often as deemed necessary
- ☐ Note responses from families or students
- ☐ Take photos/videos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Social media campaign

Post information, photos, and testimonials about your school on social media each day during National School Choice Week. Find resources to inspire you in our [Digital Backpack](#). Don't forget to tag us and add #schoolchoiceweek.



PRO TIP

Does your school have an AV Club? Involve them! Have students write posts, take pictures & videos, etc.



PLAN

Who is in charge of managing the social media platforms? Where are they getting the content? Should the content follow one specific theme/story or provide a variety of aspects that make up your school? Can you use all types of content—photos, videos, and stories? Have students wear their yellow scarves in photos and videos. Do you need any media releases?



SCHEDULE

What days / how many times per day would you like to post? Get this scheduled as early as possible.



INVITE

Invite teachers, students, and families to share photos, videos, and stories about their love for your school to share on social media.



FINALIZE

Are there any details you left out? Do you have all your content? This is the time to collect everything you may be missing.



PHOTOS AND FUN

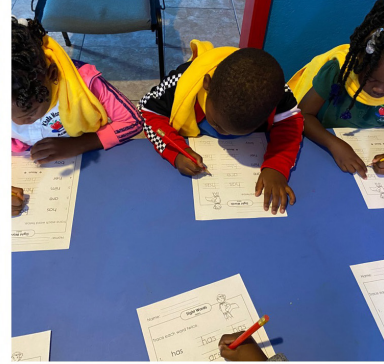
Share all the photos, videos, and content that you collected on social media. This is a time to showcase your school and all the great things you do.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a timeline
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Send an invitation for content
- ☐ Collect content
- ☐ Collect/check media releases
- ☐ Create posts and use #schoolchoiceweek
- ☐ Schedule posts
- ☐ Respond to comments

School Choice activities

Have students complete fun NSCW themed activities! They can write thank you notes to their teachers or complete our fun and free NSCW [printable activities](#).



PRO TIP

Apply for our free Activity Packet to receive a fun activity booklet!
Apply for our All Star Kit to receive 50 celebration placards!



PLAN

How many printouts do you need to make? Will you integrate these into a bigger lesson? Make sure to have colors and writing utensils available for students.



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to have students work on the activities? Get this on the books as early as possible and inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Invite teachers to integrate a time into their schedules to have students work on the activities.



FINALIZE

Are all the activities printed out? Be sure to leave them in teachers' mailboxes or a central area where teachers can pick up the activities they would like to participate in. Send a reminder to all teachers to pick up supplies.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Have fun with your students completing the activities. While they are working on the worksheets, share with them what school choice means and how it impacts their education. Take photos of students completing activities, wearing their yellow scarves.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Print activities
- ☐ Collect writing utensils
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Distribute materials
- ☐ Set up tables with activities
- ☐ Lay out colors and writing utensils
- ☐ Have students complete activities
- ☐ Take photos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Photoshoot

Take class and staff photos with participants wearing NSCW scarves and holding signs. Hang NSCW posters in the school hallway and have students and teachers pose for photos wearing their NSCW scarves. If you have local recognizable community landmarks, be sure to take photos in front of them to share out.



PLAN

Think of all the details: Will you be doing a photoshoot one day, or throughout the entire week? Is there a specific time you want to do photos? Will students design posters for a backdrop in addition to the provided NSCW poster? Do you want to break it up by class, grade level, a mix of all students, etc.? Do you want props available to pose with? Where do you want to take the photos? Do you have someone to take the photos or will each teacher take their own? Are there local landmarks you would like to get the photos with?



SCHEDULE

What day(s) do you want to hold the photoshoot? Get this on the books as early as possible and make sure to inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts. If you have a specific space(s) you want to reserve, make sure you mark that off.



INVITE

Send an invite to each class to join in on the photoshoot. If you have a specific color/theme that you want everyone to wear, include this in the invitation.



FINALIZE

Are the photoshoot areas clean and ready to go? Is the backdrop complete and ready to be hung up? Do you have a photographer? Be sure to send a reminder email to everyone to join the photoshoot – and include specific attire, if any.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Welcome students and staff to show their excitement for school choice. Have scarves available for people to pose with, along with any other props. Get some movement photos – waving the scarves, dancing around, etc. to commemorate all the fun!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date
- ☐ Choose a photographer
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Order props, if needed
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Clean photoshoot space(s)
- ☐ Set up scarves and props
- ☐ Hang backdrop
- ☐ Have staff in place
- ☐ Take photos and post using #schoolchoiceweek

Decorate the school

Have students decorate the whole school to celebrate National School Choice Week!



PRO TIPS

Get creative! Make handprint banners, posters, balloons, and paper rings. Use our activity pages to create a mural. Play music while crafting and decorating for extra fun.



PLAN

Think of all the details: What crafts will you have the students make to decorate your school? What supplies will you need? Will they make them during their art period, or another time? Will teachers be helping? When will the decorations be set up and taken down? What will you need to purchase?



SCHEDULE

When will students make the crafts to decorate? When will they put them up? When will they be taken down?



INVITE

Send an email to teachers to notify and invite them to join their students in decorating the school. If you need any craft supplies donated, send an email to parents.



FINALIZE

Are there any details you left out? Be sure to send a reminder email to teachers the day before decorating to remind them to bring their energy and assist their students.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Students are ready to decorate! Be sure to capture moments of them setting up, and all the wonderful decorations they make. Don't forget to take photos and tag us to commemorate the moment!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date for crafting and decorating
- ☐ Send email
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Make a playlist
- ☐ Gather supplies
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Play music
- ☐ Have students make crafts
- ☐ Have students hang up crafts and decorate
- ☐ Take photos and post using #schoolchoiceweek

Picnic on the playground

Have students bring their lunch outside to the playground for a picnic.



PLAN

Think of all the details: When will you send an email to parents/guardians so they can pack accordingly? For students who eat the school lunch, will you release them slightly early so they can meet the other students outside? How many staff is necessary to supervise? Do you want to set aside a few minutes at the end for cleaning up?



SCHEDULE

What day of the week will you choose? Get this on the books as early as possible and make sure to inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts, and parents can plan to pack a lunch if they want.



INVITE

Send an email to teachers to invite them to join students outside to monitor and enjoy lunch with them. Send an email to parents/guardians to remind them to plan a lunch for their student.



FINALIZE

Are there any details you left out? Be sure to send a reminder email to everyone involved the day before so they don't forget to have a plan for lunch the next day.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Walk students outside and gather on the playground for a special lunch. Don't forget to take photos and tag us to commemorate the moment!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date
- ☐ Send an invitation/email
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Make sure students have their lunch
- ☐ Line up students
- ☐ Have staff in place
- ☐ Go outside
- ☐ Eat lunch
- ☐ Take photos and post using #schoolchoiceweek
- ☐ Clean up

Contests

Hold a contest for NSCW! You can announce the winners during the week, or at the end.



PRO TIPS

Some of our favorite contests are door decorating contests and poster design contests! Or launch a contest to design the school's yearbook cover or school flag.



PLAN

What type of contest do you want to hold? Will there be a theme to the contest? How will you announce the contest? What is the deadline for submissions? Will class time be provided to work on the contest, or will it have to be done solely at home? Who will judge the contest? Be sure to set guidelines/rules for the contest. If you would like the winner to be published in the local newspaper, be sure to coordinate all the details with the editor in advance to ensure they can participate.



SCHEDULE

What day are final submissions due? What day would you like to judge the contest? Get these on the books as early as possible and inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Provide teachers with an invitation to hand out to their students with all the contest details, asking students for submissions.



FINALIZE

Make sure no details are missing. Are all the judging guidelines in place? Submissions collected? Now all you have left to do is pick a winner!



PHOTOS AND FUN

Submissions are in and now it is time to announce the winner. Make it special for the students, whether the announcement is over the intercom, at morning assembly, in the school paper, etc. Take photos to show off all the contest submissions and the winner.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Establish the rules
- ☐ Coordinate the prize if needed
- ☐ Select judges
- ☐ Set a submission deadline
- ☐ Set a date for judging
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Collect the submissions
- ☐ Judge the submissions
- ☐ Announce the winner
- ☐ Take photos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

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Want to take your celebration to the next level?

Do you want to do something more for your celebration of National School Choice Week?

Check out the suggestions on the following pages for inspiration.



Perform the NSCW dance

Each January, students use the School Choice Week dance to celebrate school choice. Make a video of your dance or host a virtual dance party and share it online using #schoolchoiceweek. Perform the official dance moves or make up your own! Check out the [official dance tutorial](#) video to learn the moves!



PLAN

When will students learn the dance—during gym, before/after school, at home individually? Who will learn the dance—the entire school, the dance team, an athletics class, etc.? When will you hold rehearsals? What will the performance look like—part of a bigger event, the entire school dancing at once, dancing in each classroom, a performance for the families, etc.?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to have rehearsals and the performance? Get these on the books as early as possible and inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts. Remember to reserve the space(s) for the rehearsals and performance.



INVITE

Depending on your plan, invite the appropriate people to participate. Be sure to include any scheduling details that the participants need to know about.



FINALIZE

Does everyone know the dance? Are any last-minute rehearsals needed? Double check the performance space and be sure to email everyone involved a friendly reminder to participate in or attend the performance.



PHOTOS AND FUN

It is time for the performance. People are cheering and waving scarves in the air. Have a ton of fun and be sure to take photos and videos!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date for the performance
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Set rehearsals
- ☐ Reserve space
- ☐ Create a run of show
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Hold rehearsals
- ☐ Clean the performance space
- ☐ Set up chairs if needed
- ☐ Set up AV
- ☐ Test the music
- ☐ Do a practice run of the dance
- ☐ Make sure all the performers have their scarves
- ☐ Perform the dance
- ☐ Take photos/videos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

School tours

Arrange school tours throughout NSCW to promote your school to prospective students and their parents.



PLAN

What are the specific items you want to showcase in your school? How will you spread the word? What is the goal of the school tours, and how will you track it? How many days and times do you have people available to give tours? Will these be one-on-one tours or group tours for multiple families at once? Do you have information/swag to provide to families?



SCHEDULE

What day(s) would you like to invite families out for a school tour? Get these dates on the calendar as early as possible and inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send an invitation out to the entire community to invite them to come visit your school. Reach out to local media, blogs, social media, community centers, sports teams, etc. to see whether they can share your event flyer.



FINALIZE

Review your initial planning list. Are there any details that need to be altered or finalized? Make sure you are really showcasing what makes your school special.



PHOTOS AND FUN

During the tour, make sure to capture people learning more about what is special about your school. Consider making a virtual tour for families that may not be able to join.



CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date(s)
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Determine who will tour
- ☐ Create an RSVP
- ☐ Select areas to showcase
- ☐ Gather/create collateral
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Promote your event—flyers, social media, partners, etc.
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Conduct school tours
- ☐ Take photos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Video shoot

Have students and staff make a brief video (using a vertically held smartphone works best!) about why they love your school. Share the video on your social media channels. Don't forget to tag us and add #schoolchoiceweek.



PRO TIP

Shoot a "What School Choice Means to Me" video. Ask the students why they feel school choice is important, how it has empowered them, and their thoughts on it.



PLAN

Do you want the videos to be scripted, improv, or a mix of both? Where in your school would make a good backdrop? Does a staff member(s) have an iPhone that can be used to record? What are all the ways that you can share the video? Do you need media release forms for students on camera?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to have the video shoot? Get this on the books as early as possible and inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send an email to teachers and students inviting them to be a part of the video shoot. If you want prepared scripts or want students/staff to answer specific questions for the video, include these as well.



FINALIZE

Is the video fully planned out? Are there any last-minute changes or details you left out? Be sure to consider everything. Send a reminder email to all involved.



VIDEO AND FUN

It's time to make a great video to showcase your school. Be sure to have all participants in the video wear their yellow NSCW scarves. Please share the video with NSCW when done; we can't wait to see it!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Have students practice their response if needed
- ☐ Practice the setup for the photoshoot
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Charge your iPhone
- ☐ Hang backdrop if needed
- ☐ Set out scarves
- ☐ Shoot and edit the video
- ☐ Share the final video using #schoolchoiceweek

Assembly/ pep rally

Host a school assembly or pep rally to build school spirit.



PLAN

Where will the event be held? Do you need chairs, bleachers, etc.? What will the run of show look like? Would you like to reach out to any clubs/teams/individuals to ask them to perform/present? Having a student share how different their life would be if they didn't have the choice to attend your school always creates a big impact. What type of AV setup do you need? Do you need décor? Create a playlist that will hype up the room.



SCHEDULE

What day/time would you like to hold the assembly/pep rally? Get this on the books as early as possible and inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts. Reserve the space.



INVITE

Send a message to all staff to share the details of the assembly/pep rally so they can prepare for their classes to attend. Send a separate email to anyone arranging performances/speeches to plan accordingly.



FINALIZE

Review your run of show for accuracy. Make any last-minute updates needed. Follow up with all teachers and performers to ensure they are ready to go.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Now is the time to celebrate everything that is great about your school. Have a blast with your students and be sure to take a lot of photos and videos to share!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Reserve space
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Create a run of show
- ☐ Hold rehearsals
- ☐ Create/get decorations if needed
- ☐ Clean the performance space
- ☐ Set up chairs/bleachers
- ☐ Set up and test AV/music
- ☐ Set up decorations
- ☐ Arrange a table of scarves to hand out as students walk in
- ☐ Host the assembly/rally
- ☐ Take photos/videos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Dignitary visit

Invite a local dignitary, such as your mayor or a county leader, to visit your school and talk with students.



PLAN

Are there specific dignitaries you would like to invite to your school? Does anyone have a direct connection to send a personal invitation? What would you like them to share with your students? Who will introduce them/provide background information? Will their visit be accompanied by any other activities? It is always nice to have something to present to any dignitary coming to your school, such as a thank you signed by all the students.



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to have a dignitary visit? Remember, you may have to be flexible with your date to accommodate their schedule. Get this on the books as early as possible and inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Reach out to local dignitaries to invite them to your school. Include why you are celebrating NSCW and what their visit would mean to your students.



FINALIZE

Be prepared: confirm with the dignitary that they are able to attend. Have an alternative plan in place in case they have to cancel at the last minute. Remember, it is never their intention to cancel, but sometimes things come up that they cannot get out of.



PHOTOS AND FUN

This is a great opportunity for students to meet an influential leader in their community, possibly for the first time. Enjoy the experience and capture the moment with photos.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Invite dignitaries to your school
- ☐ Schedule a visit
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Reserve space
- ☐ Reserve the date(s)
- ☐ Decide everyone who will speak
- ☐ Create a run of show
- ☐ Rehearse speeches
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Create a thank you if wanted
- ☐ Set up any space needed
- ☐ Set up and test AV
- ☐ Host a presentation
- ☐ Take photos/videos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Paint a mural

Have students and teachers paint a school wall or mural.



PLAN

Where would you like the mural painted? What design supports your mission? Will you be having a design contest to come up with the design or have staff create it? What paint colors will you need? What other supplies do you need—trays, brushes, rollers, aprons, pencils, stencils, aprons, etc.? Who will be involved in the actual painting?



SCHEDULE

What day(s) would you like to paint a mural? Get this on the books as early as possible and inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send an email to all families and staff announcing the mural. Make sure to send an email to anyone involved in the painting with details as to when they will be painting and about recommended attire.



FINALIZE

Do you have all the supplies you need for the mural? Are there any items you forgot? Do you have a painting schedule in place? Look over your initial planning notes and see whether there is anything you are missing.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Painting a mural is an experience that students never forget and will talk about for years to come. Be sure to get photos of them in action and of the final mural.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Create a painting schedule
- ☐ Set a date(s)
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Create/select a design
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Create a list of supplies
- ☐ Request paint/supply donations
- ☐ Purchase additional supplies needed
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Set up tables with painting supplies
- ☐ Have students paint the mural
- ☐ Mark off the space for drying
- ☐ Take photos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Arts & crafts night

Hold an arts & crafts night. For a green event, have students and parents use recycled materials as art supplies and learn about the importance of conservation. Check out our coloring pages and creative decorations in our [Activity Center](#).



PRO TIP

Some of our favorite arts and crafts are painting school choice rocks, making school choice bracelets, and decorating school choice t-shirts or tote bags!



PLAN

Where will you hold the arts & crafts night? This can be one large space, or you can split different types of crafts between different classrooms so that each one has a design element: bracelet making, painting, clay, origami, etc. Is there a theme—School Spirit, Go Green, College Bound, etc.? What type of supplies do you need? Will you need additional tables/chairs/trash cans?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to hold an arts & crafts night? Get this on the books as early as possible and inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Invite all your families to join you for an arts & crafts night. If you need donations of crafting items, families can be a great resource, and you can include your request with the invitation.



FINALIZE

Have you collected enough supplies? Make a list of anything left that you need and designate someone who can do a run to the store. Send a message to families to remind them to join you.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Some amazing art is about to be created. Be sure to capture all the fun and magnificent designs!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Create a budget
- ☐ Select/reserve a space
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Make a list of crafts needed
- ☐ Send a request for donations
- ☐ Purchase items still needed
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Clean the event space
- ☐ Set up AV if needed
- ☐ Set up tables and chairs
- ☐ Set out all crafting supplies
- ☐ Create arts & crafts
- ☐ Take photos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Game night

Host a family game night! Invite students and their families to come play board games, video games, or active games. Students can bring their favorite games to share with their friends.



PLAN

What games would you like to play? Where will you get these games? (It is likely your staff/families have every game you could possibly think of.) Will there be a theme (character, pajama, etc.)? If you are playing any digital games, what type of AV equipment do you need? What room(s) will you play the games in? Do you need extra tables/chairs? Will there be snacks and/or beverages available?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to host a game night? Get this on the books as early as possible and inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send an invitation to all families, asking them to join you for game night. If there are additional supplies you need, include them in this email.



FINALIZE

Do you have all the games you want to play? Do you need food/beverages? If details are left out, now is the time to finalize them. Send out a reminder email 48 hours in advance to remind families to join you for game night.



PHOTOS AND FUN

The games are out, and the fun is about to begin. Make sure to take photos of all the excitement!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Select/reserve a space
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Make a list of games and supplies needed
- ☐ Reach out to teachers/families to request games and snacks
- ☐ Purchase items still needed
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Clean the event space
- ☐ Set up AV if needed
- ☐ Set up tables and chairs
- ☐ Set out food/beverages if needed
- ☐ Host game night
- ☐ Take photos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Muffins with mom/ Donuts with dad

Invite moms to a “muffins with mom” and dads to a “donuts with dad” appreciation breakfast.



PRO TIP

Make it a drive through during morning drop off!



PLAN

Do you want to host the breakfast before school starts or after the first bell? Where do you want to host the breakfast? If before school, the library can be a good place; otherwise, the cafeteria is a great option. How many people are you anticipating? Where will you buy the breakfast items? A lot of supermarkets and major donut chains will offer discounts to schools to help them purchase items, or you might consider partnering with your PTA. Do you have plates, cups, napkins, cutlery, tablecloths, etc.? How many tables/chairs do you need? What will the gathering look like—music, speeches, etc.?



SCHEDULE

What day/time would you like to hold muffins with mom / donuts with dad? Get this on the books as early as possible and inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts. Reserve a space if needed.



INVITE

Send an invitation to all families inviting them to participate in the festivities.



FINALIZE

Were you able to receive donations or do you still need to purchase many items? Have someone available for a grocery run the night before/morning of the event.



PHOTOS AND FUN

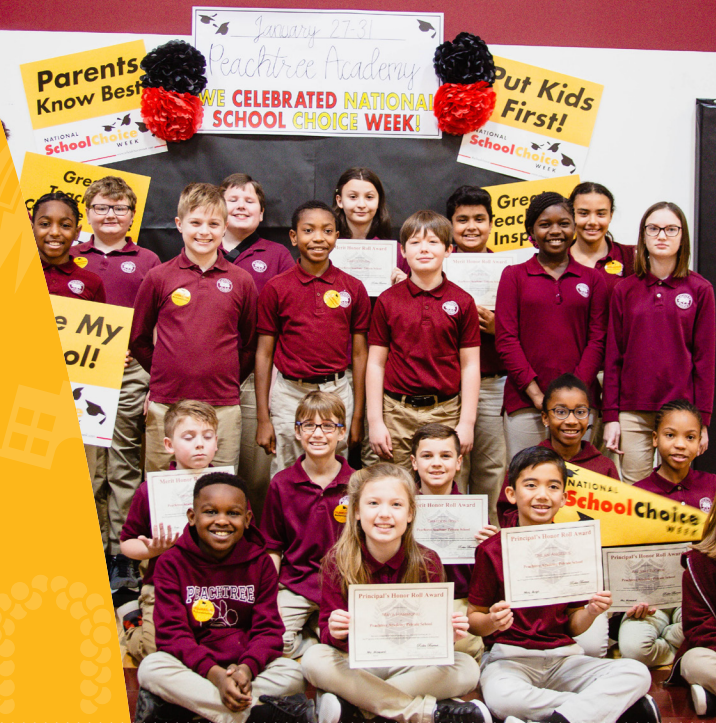
Moms and dads don't often get to come together with each other to just enjoy a morning at the school where they are appreciated. Having this event will build a great community, so be sure to capture these amazing moments.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Select/reserve a space
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Make a grocery list—muffins, donuts, coffee, juice, cutlery, tablecloths, etc.
- ☐ Reach out to local stores to request donations
- ☐ Purchase items on grocery list
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Clean the event space
- ☐ Set up tables and chairs
- ☐ Set out food/beverages
- ☐ Host the event
- ☐ Take photos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Awards ceremony

Host a student and staff awards ceremony. This is a great time to recognize their hard work, acts of kindness, and more.



PRO TIP

Invite families to the awards ceremony, and include them in recognizing all the great work they do for your school.



PLAN

Where will the ceremony be held? What awards would you like to give out? As NSCW is in January, this could be a great time to honor all your first semester successes. Staff work hard all year long; think of fun, creative awards that show the difference they are making. Will everyone sit on the floor, or are chairs/bleachers needed? Do you need an AV system set up (projection, microphone, speakers, etc.)?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to host the awards ceremony? Get this scheduled as early as possible and inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts. Be sure to reserve the space.



INVITE

Invite teachers to bring their classes to attend the awards ceremony. Email families inviting them to come celebrate their students' successes.



FINALIZE

Have all the awardees been determined and awards printed? Are there any speeches or videos that will be played? Double check all your details. Send out a reminder email to teachers and families.



PHOTOS AND FUN

It is great to recognize accomplishments among your students and staff. Take photos to display all the success from the first semester!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Select/reserve a space
- ☐ Create a run of show
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Identify award categories and who qualifies for an award
- ☐ Print/order awards
- ☐ Create/order décor
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Clean the event space
- ☐ Set up and test AV
- ☐ Set up tables and chairs
- ☐ Put up décor
- ☐ Present the awards
- ☐ Take photos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Interviews

Conduct interviews on local radio and television shows to promote your school. At times we may contact you with a local media connection if someone in your area inquires.



PLAN

Make a list of all your local media. Who would be best as the face of these interviews—families, teachers, students, administration? What is the story that you want to tell? What would make other families want to be a part of your school? This is your time to shine.



SCHEDULE

What days would you be available to conduct interviews? Be sure to be flexible with radio/TV schedules, as sometimes they have only one slot they can fit you into. Get this on the books as early as possible and inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Reach out to local radio and television shows, inviting them to share your story. Let them know what makes your school standout and why you are a great choice for other neighborhood children.



FINALIZE

Confirm the interview(s) that you have scheduled. Do you have any information you can send the interviewer in advance? This helps them prepare. Rehearse your speech and put any final touches on it.



PHOTOS AND FUN

It is time to share your story with the community. Embrace the opportunity you have. If you can take photos outside or in the studio, you can use these to promote the segment. Share out so everyone can tune in.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Reach out to local media
- ☐ Schedule interviews
- ☐ Reserve the date(s)
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Decide who is going to speak
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Rehearse speeches
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Invite people to tune in
- ☐ Attend the interview(s)
- ☐ Share your story
- ☐ Take photos/videos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Student raffle

Have a fun student-based raffle during NSCW to celebrate your students and their achievements.



PRO TIPS

Kids can earn tickets based on acts of kindness, good grades, turning in assignments on time, attendance, and other positive behavior. Some fun prize ideas are: Homework passes, extra credit points, cell phone time, free period, get out of gym free card, teacher for a period, extra recess time for class, lunch with principal / favorite teacher, principal for a day, a NSCW scarf, and more! Have fun with ideas.



PLAN

Think of all the details: What behavior do you want to reward? What prizes do you want to give? How will you collect tickets? How will you announce the winners? When will they be able to cash in their prizes? How will you distribute tickets? How many ticket rolls will you need?



SCHEDULE

Will students earn tickets for all of NSCW? Will you draw for winners on a Friday? Get this on the books as early as possible and make sure to inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send an email to teachers to notify them of the event, and encourage them to keep an eye out for behavior they want to reward.



FINALIZE

Are there any details you left out? Be sure to send a reminder email to everyone involved before the week so they don't forget to keep an eye out for good behavior and bring their positive reinforcement energy!



PHOTOS AND FUN

Students have earned tickets and it is time to draw winners! They get to win prizes and celebrate themselves and their school. Don't forget to take photos of the kids celebrating and tag us to commemorate the moment!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set the week
- ☐ Send an notifying email
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Get ticket rolls
- ☐ Send reminder
- ☐ Reward behavior with tickets
- ☐ Draw winners
- ☐ Take photos and post using #schoolchoiceweek

Faculty vs. student game

Have a friendly competition between students and staff. Get in the school spirit, make signs, and have some fun.



PRO TIPS

Some fun games they could play are basketball, volleyball, or tug of war.



PLAN

Think of all the details: What competition do you want to pick? How will you pick teams? What supplies do you need? How will you keep score? Do the winners get a prize? Will the teams wear matching colors? When will you host sign ups for players?



SCHEDULE

What day will you hold the game? Will it be during school, or after? Get this on the books as early as possible and make sure to inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send an email to teachers to notify them of the event, and invite them to sign up to face their students! Invite students who don't want to participate in playing to come watch.



FINALIZE

Are there any details you left out? Be sure to send a reminder email to everyone involved the day before so they don't forget to bring all their energy the next day.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Students and staff are headed to the game and ready to bring their all! Put on some pump up music. Don't forget to take photos of the competition and tag us to commemorate the moment!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set the day
- ☐ Pick a game
- ☐ Send an notifying email
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Make playlist
- ☐ Send reminder
- ☐ Put on music
- ☐ Students and teachers head to the gym
- ☐ Pick teams
- ☐ Play!
- ☐ Take photos and post using #schoolchoiceweek

Movie night

Invite families to a special movie night at the school. Pop some popcorn, pick a fun movie, and have a great time relaxing together.



PLAN

Think of all the details: What movie would you like to play? Where will you get the movie? Will there be a theme (Disney, Marvel, Star Wars, etc.)? What type of AV equipment do you need? What room(s) will you watch the movie in? How many tables and chairs do you need? Will there be snacks and/or beverages available?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to host a movie night? Get this on the books as early as possible and make sure to inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send an invitation out to all families, inviting them to join you for movie night. If there are additional supplies you need, include them in this email.



FINALIZE

Do you have the movie you are going to watch? Do you need any food/beverages? If details you left out, now is the time to finalize them. Send out a reminder email 48 hours in advance to remind families to join you for movie night.



PHOTOS AND FUN

The movie is on, and the fun is about to begin. Make sure to take photos of all the excitement!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date
- ☐ Select/reserve a space
- ☐ Choose a movie
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Reach out to teachers/families to request refreshments and snacks
- ☐ Purchase items still needed
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Clean event space
- ☐ Set up AV
- ☐ Test AV
- ☐ Set up tables and chairs
- ☐ Set out food/beverages, if needed
- ☐ Take photos and post using #schoolchoiceweek

Scavenger hunt

Have students participate in a scavenger hunt on school grounds. Teachers and parents can work together to hide necessary items or make it nature themed for some educational outdoor time.



PLAN

Think of all the details: What will the kids search for? How long will they have to look? Will there be a theme (nature finds, treasure hunt, etc.)? What room(s) will you need? How many supervisors? Will there be a prize? How long will the list be?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to hold a scavenger hunt? Get this on the books as early as possible and make sure to inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send an invitation out to all teachers, inviting them to join their students in the scavenger hunt, or volunteer. Send a notification out to parents, if there are additional supplies you need, include them in this email.



FINALIZE

Do you have all of the items in place for the students to find? Are all stations set up and lists made? Send out a reminder email the day before to remind staff and students.



PHOTOS AND FUN

The students have their lists, and the scavenger hunt is about to begin. Make sure to take photos of all the excitement!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date
- ☐ Select/reserve a space
- ☐ Set a theme
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Make a list of things to find
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Clean event space if needed
- ☐ Place items to find if needed
- ☐ Hand out lists and guidelines
- ☐ Start scavenger hunt
- ☐ Take photos and post using #schoolchoiceweek

3

Want to go all out?

Do you have a team ready to take on a challenge to plan the best National School Choice Week event possible?

Check out the all-out event ideas on the following pages for inspiration.



Open house

Hold an open house to promote your school to prospective students and their families.



PRO TIP

Add a potluck or special dinner to the open house and invite your families to join and bring someone new.



PLAN

What are specific items you want to showcase in your school? How will you spread the word? What is the goal of the open house, and how will you track it? What day and time would be best for the open house? How many people are you expecting? Do you have information/swag to provide to families? Will you invite outside vendors and/or have food and beverage offerings?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to invite families out for an open house? Get this date on the calendar as early as possible and inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send an invitation out to the entire community to welcome them to come visit your school. Reach out to local media, blogs, social media, community centers, sports teams, etc. to see whether they can share your event flyer.



FINALIZE

Review your initial planning list. Are there any details that need to be altered or finalized? Make sure you are really showcasing what makes your school special.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Capture photos of the families exploring your school and learning what makes you a great choice.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Select/reserve a space(s)
- ☐ Determine who will speak/tour
- ☐ Create an RSVP if needed
- ☐ Secure food/beverages and invite outside vendors if wanted
- ☐ Select areas to showcase
- ☐ Gather/create collateral
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Promote your event—flyers, social media, partners, etc.
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Set up AV if needed
- ☐ Set up tables and chairs
- ☐ Conduct the open house
- ☐ Take photos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Talent show

Plan a talent show for students and staff to show off their skills.



PLAN

Where will the talent show be held? Do you want the talent show during the school day or in the evening? When will you announce the talent show? Be sure to announce with enough time for students and staff to prepare their acts. When will you hold auditions? Will students be able to book a space before or after school where they can rehearse on specific dates? What type of equipment is needed for their performances—lighting, microphones, speakers, instruments, etc.? Do you have someone to run the AV?



SCHEDULE

What days would you like to hold auditions, rehearsals, and the show? Get these dates on the books as early as possible and inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts. Reserve the space.



INVITE

Invite students to audition to be a part of the talent show. Invite the community to attend the talent show to cheer on the performances.



FINALIZE

Are all the acts ready to go? Do you have all the equipment you need for successful performances? Do you need to get and test music from performers? Should you have a final run through? Think of all the details that may be left out.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Students are ready to perform their hearts out and show all their passion and talent. Cheer them on and support the things they love. Take photos and videos to commemorate the amazing things your students and staff can do!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date for the performance
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Reserve space
- ☐ Announce the talent show and audition dates
- ☐ Create a run of show
- ☐ Invite parents to come watch
- ☐ Hold rehearsals
- ☐ Send a reminder to performers and attendees
- ☐ Clean the performance space
- ☐ Set up chairs if needed
- ☐ Set up AV/test the music
- ☐ Do a practice run
- ☐ Make sure everyone has scarves
- ☐ Conduct the talent show
- ☐ Take photos/videos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Field trip

Schedule a local field trip and have students wear their NSCW scarves.



PRO TIP

Check out museums, monuments, zoos, aquariums, and science centers. Take a trip to the local library or park for a free, fun adventure.



PLAN

Select a place to go to on a field trip. Is it within walking distance, or do you need a bus? How much does it cost per student to attend? How many chaperones will you need? Will they need meals/money during the field trip? What student medications need to come on the trip, and does any need to be kept cold? Be sure to consider all field trip guidelines in place.



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to go on the field trip? Get this scheduled with the venue as early as possible and inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send a letter and email to families that outlines the details of the field trip and how it ties into the students' studies. Include a permission slip and instructions on how to pay if needed. If chaperones are needed, include a sign-up form for families.



FINALIZE

Confirm all of the details with the venue 48 hours in advance. Ensure you have an accurate count of students. If lunches are needed, provide this count to the cafeteria with enough advance notice. Have all medications prepared. Send a reminder email to all families detailing any items students need to bring with them or any special attire requirements..



PHOTOS AND FUN

Students are about to go on a new, exciting adventure. Enjoy this fun learning experience and be sure to take a lot of great photos!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Select a field trip location
- ☐ Set the date
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Create a budget
- ☐ Send an invitation and permission slip
- ☐ Confirm chaperones
- ☐ Schedule transportation
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Create a schedule for the day
- ☐ Get lunches/meds prepared
- ☐ Confirm permission slips and money
- ☐ Pay the venue/transportation
- ☐ Get students on the bus
- ☐ Enjoy the facilities
- ☐ Take photos/videos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek
- ☐ Return students to school

Science fair

Plan a science fair to showcase student talents.



PLAN

Will the science fair be open to all students or only specific grades? Is there a specific science theme that you would like to focus on? How long will they have to work on their projects? Where will you hold the science fair? How many tables are needed? Who will judge the fair? Will there be an awards ceremony, and will parents be invited? What will the prize(s) be? Create a packet to send home with students that outlines all the details.



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to hold the science fair? When will you introduce the science fair to students? When are their projects due? Get these dates on the books as early as possible and inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Invite teachers to come together to create a rubric and guidelines. Have teachers invite students to participate in the science fair, providing them with the packet of information. If there will be a viewing or ceremony, invite families to join.



FINALIZE

Do you have enough tables to display the submissions? Are there any details left to finalize? Confirm with judges that they are still available. Send a reminder to students the day before projects need to be turned in.



PHOTOS AND FUN

This is a great time to allow students to show off their hard work and learn from the amazing projects of their peers. Take photos of all the amazing submissions and student viewings.



CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Establish the rules and create a packet for students
- ☐ Find judges
- ☐ Reserve space
- ☐ Set a submission deadline
- ☐ Set a date for judging
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Order prize ribbons
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Set up tables in the space for project display
- ☐ Collect and display submissions
- ☐ Judge the submissions
- ☐ Announce winner
- ☐ Take photos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

School history

Develop a play about your school's history. This can also be adapted to be a special class or video.



PLAN

Who will lead the play? Be sure to script out all the major events since your school's inauguration that you would like highlighted in the performance. Who will your audience be: students, families, community? Where will you hold the performance? What type of AV do you need, and who will run it?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like the school history auditions to be? When will you hold rehearsals? When will the performance be? Get these dates scheduled as early as possible and inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send an email to all families to invite students to audition. If the performance will be open to the public, send a second email to invite families and the community to come see the show. If this is a performance just for classmates, send an email to teachers, inviting them to bring their classes to see the show.



FINALIZE

Double check all your details to make sure you are ready to go. Run one more rehearsal to ensure that everyone is prepared. During this test run, be sure all the AV is properly set up and running.



PHOTOS AND FUN

This is an amazing opportunity to share your school's history with your students, family, and the community. Capture the moment with photos and videos.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date for the performance
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Write the script
- ☐ Schedule auditions
- ☐ Reserve space
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Hold rehearsals
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Clean the performance space
- ☐ Set up chairs if needed
- ☐ Set up and test AV
- ☐ Do a practice run
- ☐ Make sure all performers have their scarves
- ☐ Host the performance
- ☐ Take photos/videos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

School choice parade

Host a parade for school choice. Invite families to watch and celebrate school spirit. Involve your students and various activity groups like your band and dance team.



PLAN

Think of all the details: Where will the event be held? What will the route be? Do you need chairs, bleachers, etc.? What will the run of the show be? Would you like to reach out to any clubs/teams/individuals to ask them to walk in the parade? What type of AV set-up do you need?



SCHEDULE

What day/time would you like to hold the parade? Get this on the books as early as possible and make sure to inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts. Reserve the space.



INVITE

Send a message to all staff to share the details of the parade so they can prepare for their classes to attend. Send a separate email to anyone arranging performances/walking in the parade to plan accordingly.



FINALIZE

Review your run of show for accuracy. Make any last-minute updates needed. Follow-up with all teachers and participants to ensure they are ready to go.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Now is the time to celebrate everything that is great about your school. Students and staff are ready to march! Have a blast with your students and be sure to take a lot of photos and videos to share!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date
- ☐ Reserve a route
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Gather all sign-ups for participation
- ☐ Create a run of show
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Hold a rehearsal
- ☐ Create/buy decorations, if needed
- ☐ Set up chairs/bleachers
- ☐ Set up and test AV
- ☐ Make sure students are wearing their scarves
- ☐ Start parade
- ☐ Take photos/videos and post using #schoolchoiceweek

Foam party

Host a red and yellow foam party to celebrate National School Choice Week!



PLAN

Think of all the details: What space will you use (if you choose an outdoor space, have a backup indoors in case of weather)? Where will you rent a foam machine? How much will it cost? How many chairs and tables do you need? Do you need to insure the machine? Make a fun playlist. What electrical set up is necessary? Establish a budget.



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to host the foam party? Get this scheduled as early as possible and make sure to inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send an invitation out to the teachers and ask them to join the fun. Send an email to the parents to notify and invite them to the foam party. Ask for donations to rent the machine at this time if necessary.



FINALIZE

Be sure to reconfirm all details. When will the machine be delivered? Make sure it works and someone knows how to run it. Is the space ready? Send out a reminder email the day before to remind staff and families.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Get the students ready and pump up the music. Turn on the foam machine and have a blast. Take many photos and have a great time!



CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date for the foam party
- ☐ Reserve space
- ☐ Contact a rental company for the foam machine
- ☐ Make a list of supplies
- ☐ Establish a budget
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Send an invitation and emails
- ☐ Purchase/rent all items needed from list
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Clean the reserved space
- ☐ Set up and test the machine
- ☐ Let students in
- ☐ Turn on machine
- ☐ Put on the foam party
- ☐ Take photos/videos and post using #schoolchoiceweek

Lock-in

Invite students and families to your school for a school choice themed lock in night. Have fun from sunup to sundown celebrating your school.



PLAN

Think of all the details: What games do you want available? What activities will be set up for the kids? Will they bring anything with them? Do you have students that would like to perform (musicians, dancers, cheer, etc.)? Will there be food and drinks available for free or purchase? How many chairs and tables do you need? How many chaperones do you need? When will you collect permission slips? Establish a budget.



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to host a lock-in? From what time to what time? Get this scheduled as early as possible and make sure to inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send an invitation out to the teachers, asking them to join the lock in as a chaperone. Send the invite for parents to volunteer, be sure to include any necessary permission slips and request for supplies.



FINALIZE

Be sure to reconfirm all details. Are all the activities confirmed? Have you collected and accounted for the permission slips? Do you have enough food and drink? Are there any items from your list that still need to be purchased? Send out a reminder to all involved 48 hours in advance.



PHOTOS AND FUN

The students are arriving for the lock-in. Have tons of fun with music, activities, and staying up all night. Take many photos and have a great time!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date for the lock in
- ☐ Reserve all the necessary space
- ☐ Establish a budget
- ☐ Make a list of activities, games, performances, etc.
- ☐ Create a layout for the rooms
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Send invitations and emails to parents
- ☐ Purchase/rent all items needed from list
- ☐ Contract food vendors, if needed
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Clean the reserved space
- ☐ Set up tables and chairs
- ☐ Set up and test AV
- ☐ Put on the lock-in
- ☐ Take photos/videos and post using #schoolchoiceweek

Color run

Host a red and yellow color run for students, families, and staff to celebrate NSCW. Once participants cross the finish line, red and yellow powder gets thrown all over for an extra fun celebration.



PLAN

Think of all the details: What outdoor space will you use (have a backup indoors in case of weather?). How many chairs or bleachers do you need for those who want to watch? How can families sign up? Where will you get the colored powder? How much do you need? Who will throw it at the end? Where will the start and finish be? How long will the running route be?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to host the color run? What time will it start? What time will it end? Get this scheduled as early as possible and make sure to inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send an invitation out to the teachers, asking them to join the festivities. Also send one to the parents notifying them of the run and inviting them to join. Make sure they know to send their student in white, and ask about any donations for the color powder at this time if necessary.



FINALIZE

Be sure to reconfirm all details. Has the powder come in? Who will be at the finish line to start throwing it? Do all involved have a white shirt for the event? Double check the run route and be sure to email everyone involved a friendly reminder to participate and bring their energy!



PHOTOS AND FUN

Students, staff, and parents are crossing the finish line and color is everywhere! Take many photos and have a great time!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date for the color run
- ☐ Plan a route
- ☐ Establish a budget
- ☐ Look into color powder
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Purchase color powder
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Set up chairs or bleachers
- ☐ Set up water table
- ☐ Put on the color run
- ☐ Take photos/videos and post using #schoolchoiceweek

Fundraiser

Involve the students in choosing and hosting a school fundraiser. Parents, families, and the community can come out and show support for your chosen cause.



PRO TIP

Think car wash, bake sale, yard sale, or lemonade stand.



PLAN

Think of all the details: What fundraiser will you choose? How can the students get involved? How much will you charge? When will they make signs? What supplies do they need? Where will the money earned be allocated? How many supervisors will you need? How many tables? How many chairs?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to host a fundraiser? For outdoor fundraisers, have a backup plan. Get this scheduled as early as possible and make sure to inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send an invitation out to the community, asking them to join the festivities. Post flyers at community centers. Spread the word on social media. Send an email to teachers asking them to volunteer, and let parents know.



FINALIZE

Be sure to reconfirm all details. Is the event area confirmed? Are there any items from your list that still need to be purchased? Send out a reminder to all teachers and parents, and post a reminder on social media channels.



PHOTOS AND FUN

The students are ready to work, the community is ready to visit, and everyone is having fun! Take many photos and have a great time!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date for the fundraiser
- ☐ Pick a fundraiser
- ☐ Reserve space
- ☐ Establish a budget
- ☐ Make a list of necessary items
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Make a playlist
- ☐ Post for community
- ☐ Purchase/rent all items needed from list
- ☐ Send and post a reminder
- ☐ Clean the reserved space
- ☐ Set up tables, chairs, or supplies needed
- ☐ Set up and test AV for music
- ☐ Put on the fundraiser
- ☐ Take photos/videos and post using #schoolchoiceweek

Spelling bee

Plan a spelling bee for students to show off their skills.



PLAN

Think of all the details: Where will the spelling bee be held? Do you want the Spelling Bee to be held during the school day or in the evening? When will you announce the Spelling Bee? What type of equipment is needed for the stage – lighting, microphones, etc.? Do you have someone to run the AV? Who will be the judges? How can students sign up? How many chairs do you need for the audience?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to hold the Spelling Bee? Get this scheduled as early as possible and make sure to inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts. Reserve the space.



INVITE

Invite students to sign up to be a part of the Spelling Bee. Invite the teachers to volunteer as a judge and watch. Invite parents to come and cheer on their students!



FINALIZE

Are all the students ready to go? Do you have all the equipment you need? Are all the words chosen? Are all the chairs set up? Is the stage? Think of all the details that may be left out. Send a reminder to staff and parents 48 hours before the Spelling Bee.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Students are ready to compete in the Spelling Bee! Cheer them on and support their hard work. Take photos and videos to commemorate the amazing things your students can do!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date for the Spelling Bee
- ☐ Reserve space
- ☐ Announce Spelling Bee
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Invite parents to come watch
- ☐ Send a reminder to students and attendees
- ☐ Clean the event space
- ☐ Set up chairs
- ☐ Set up AV
- ☐ Test the microphones
- ☐ Make sure everyone has scarves
- ☐ Conduct the Spelling Bee
- ☐ Take photos/videos and post using #schoolchoiceweek

Field day

Set aside a day to host a school field day for your students, families, and staff. Plan activities, friendly competitions, and events to make the most out of your day.



PRO TIPS

Have blow up slides, water wars, and other fun games. Host a specialized a-thon or relay race for students and teachers. These can be outside or in the gym depending on preference and weather.



PLAN

Think of all the details: What space will you use (if you choose an outdoor space, have a backup indoors in case of weather?). What games do you want available? What company will you rent the blow up slide from? What water toys will you have? If you have balloons, do any students have a latex allergy? Will there be snacks and drinks available? How many chairs and tables do you need? Establish a budget.



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to host a field day? Get this scheduled as early as possible and make sure to inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send an invitation out to the teachers, asking them to join the festivities. Let the students and parents know. Post flyers at school.



FINALIZE

Be sure to reconfirm all details. Are all rentals confirmed? Is the event space confirmed? Are there any items from your list that still need to be purchased? Send out a reminder to all included parties.



PHOTOS AND FUN

The students are heading out to their field day and ready to have fun! Take many photos and have a great time!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date for the field day
- ☐ Reserve space
- ☐ Get a quote from a blow up company
- ☐ Establish a budget
- ☐ Make a list of games, activities, etc.
- ☐ Create a layout for the event
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Purchase/rent all items needed from list
- ☐ Contract vendors, if needed
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Clean the reserved space
- ☐ Set up tables and chairs
- ☐ Set up and test AV
- ☐ Put on the field day
- ☐ Take photos/videos and post using #schoolchoiceweek

Blood drive

Hold a blood drive as a way for your school to give back to the community. Encourage families and those in your area to come donate blood. Invite students to help plan and volunteer.



PLAN

Think of all the details: How will you get the word out? Where will you hold the blood drive? Will it be during the school day, or on a weekend? How many volunteers do you need? Who will contact the organization to administer the blood drive safely? How many tables and chairs do you need? How many hours will it take to complete? For students, think of permission slips and age requirements.



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to hold the blood drive? Get this on the books as early as possible and make sure to inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts. Be sure to reach out to your chosen organization early.



INVITE

Send an email to all families informing them of the blood drive, the impact that it will have, and include permission slips if needed. Post fliers on community boards and let the school staff know as well.



FINALIZE

Do you have everything you need to successfully complete the blood drive? If not, now is the time to gather all last-minute items. Prepare your students for the impact that they are about to be making, and why it is important.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Your school has come together to make a positive change on the world. Celebrate and embrace all of the good that you are doing each and every day. Take photos to document the day.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Contact organization
- ☐ Set the date(s)
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Choose location
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Make a supply list
- ☐ Purchase or get supplies donated
- ☐ Schedule transportation, if needed
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Check that you have permission slips back from students involved
- ☐ Prepare needed supplies
- ☐ Complete the blood drive
- ☐ Take photos/videos and post using #schoolchoiceweek

Karaoke night

Host a family karaoke night.



PLAN

Think of all the details: What songs will you sing? How will karaoke be set up? Will you use a machine, or youtube? Will there be a theme (Disney, oldies, etc.)? What type of AV equipment do you need? What room will you perform in? How many tables and chairs do you need? Will there be snacks and/or beverages available?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to host karaoke night? Get this on the books as early as possible and make sure to inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send an invitation out to all families, inviting them to join you for karaoke night. If there are additional supplies you need, include them in this email.



FINALIZE

Do you have all of the equipment you need? Do you need any food/beverages? If there are details you left out, now is the time to finalize them. Send out a reminder email 48 hours in advance to remind families to join you for karaoke night.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Karaoke is on and the fun is about to begin. Families are ready to sing their hearts out. Make sure to take photos of all the excitement!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date
- ☐ Select/reserve a space
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Reach out to parents for donations if necessary
- ☐ Purchase items still needed
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Clean event space
- ☐ Set up tables and chairs
- ☐ Set out food/beverages, if needed
- ☐ Set up AV/Karaoke Machine
- ☐ Test AV
- ☐ Invite parents and students up to sing
- ☐ Take photos and post using #schoolchoiceweek

Tie-dye party

Hold a red and yellow tie-dye party to celebrate NSCW. Students can make custom t-shirts, socks, bags, and more.



PLAN

Think of all the details: Where will you hold the tie-dye party? This can be a messy activity. What type of supplies do you need? How many tables/chairs will you need? Will items be given to tie-dye, or will they be brought from home?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to hold the tie-dye party? Get this on the books as early as possible and make sure to inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Invite all your families to join you for the tie-dye party. If you need donations of dye or items to dye, families can be a great resource and you can include your request with the invitation.



FINALIZE

Have you collected enough supplies? Make a list of anything left that you need and designate someone that can do a run to the store. Send a message to families to remind them to join you.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Some amazing tie-dye art is about to be created. Be sure to capture all of the fun and magnificent designs!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date
- ☐ Create a budget
- ☐ Select/reserve a space
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Make a list of supplies needed
- ☐ Send a request for donations
- ☐ Purchase items still needed
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Clean event space
- ☐ Set up AV, if needed
- ☐ Set up tables and chairs
- ☐ Set out all tie-dye supplies
- ☐ Create tie-dye pieces!
- ☐ Take photos and post using #schoolchoiceweek

Host a dance

Host a school dance for students to celebrate NSCW.



PRO TIP

Some fun themes are: Red & Yellow, Glow Party, Under the Sea, Disco Fever, and Disney.



PLAN

Think of all the details: What space will you use? What will the theme be? What music will you play? What decorations will you use? How many chaperones do you need? Will there be food and drinks available for free or purchase? How many chairs and tables do you need? Establish a budget.



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to host a dance? What time will it start and end? Get this scheduled as early as possible and make sure to inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send an invitation out to teachers, asking them to join the festivities. Email the parents and invite them to volunteer, or include a donation list if needed.



FINALIZE

Be sure to reconfirm all details. Is the event space confirmed? Are decorations planned? Are chaperones confirmed? Are there any items from your list that still need to be purchased? Send out a reminder to all involved 48 hours in advance.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Turn up the music, and have a great time dancing and celebrating school choice. Take many photos and share them with us using the hashtag #schoolchoiceweek.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date for the dance
- ☐ Reserve space
- ☐ Choose a theme
- ☐ Establish a budget
- ☐ Create a layout for the room
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Purchase/rent all items needed from list
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Clean the reserved space
- ☐ Decorate reserved space
- ☐ Set up tables and chairs
- ☐ Set up and test AV
- ☐ Put on the dance
- ☐ Take photos/videos and post using #schoolchoiceweek

Day at the capitol

Schedule a trip to your state capitol and have students wear their NSCW scarves.



PLAN

Think of all the details: How many buses will you need? How much does it cost per student to attend? How many chaperones will you need? Will they need meals/money during the trip? What student medication needs to come on the trip, and does any need to be kept cold? What permission slips will you need? Be sure to consider all field trip guidelines in place.



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to visit the capitol? Get this scheduled with the venue as early as possible and make sure to inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send a letter and email to parents that outlines the details of the field trip and how it ties into their students' studies. Include a permission slip, and instructions how to pay, if needed. If chaperones are needed, include a sign-up form for parents.



FINALIZE

Confirm all of the details with the venue 48 hours in advance. Ensure you have an accurate count of students. If lunches are needed, provide this count to the cafeteria with enough advance notice. Have all medications prepared. Send a reminder email to all families, detailing any items students need to bring with them, or any special attire requirements.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Students are about to see their state capitol. They will learn about the history of their state, their government, and see monuments. Enjoy this fun learning experience and be sure to take a lot of great photos!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set the date
- ☐ Create a budget and set cost
- ☐ Send an invitation & permission slip
- ☐ Confirm chaperones
- ☐ Schedule transportation
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Create a schedule for the day
- ☐ Get lunches/meds prepared
- ☐ Confirm permission slips and money
- ☐ Pay the venue/transportation
- ☐ Get students on the bus
- ☐ Enjoy the capitol
- ☐ Take photos/videos and post using #schoolchoiceweek
- ☐ Return students to school

School fair

Hold a school fair to promote your school and other sister schools to prospective students and their parents.



PLAN

Think of all the details: How many schools do you want to participate in your school fair? Where will you hold it? How many tables and chairs will you need? What are specific items you want to showcase? How will you spread the word? What is the goal of the school fair, and how will you track it? Will this be a one-day school fair, or over the course of multiple days? Do you have information/swag to provide to families? What signs or decorations will you need? Will you invite outside vendors and/or have food and beverage offerings?



SCHEDULE

What day(s) would you like to invite families out for the school fair? Get these dates on the calendar as early as possible and make sure to inform all key players to avoid schedule conflicts.



INVITE

Send an invitation out to the entire community to invite them to come visit your school fair. Send invitations to other local or sister schools to exhibit at your school fair. Reach out to local media, blogs, community centers, sports teams, etc. to see if they can share your event flier.



FINALIZE

Review your initial planning list. Are there any details that need to be altered or finalized? How many schools are exhibiting? Is the venue confirmed?



PHOTOS AND FUN

Capture the families exploring and interacting with all the booths. Be sure to share all the fun online with the tag #schoolchoiceweek.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Set a date(s)
- ☐ Select/reserve a space(s)
- ☐ Invite other schools to be an exhibitor
- ☐ Create an RSVP, if needed
- ☐ Determine if you will have food/beverage and if so, secure
- ☐ Invite outside vendors, if wanted
- ☐ Send an invitation
- ☐ Promote your event – flyers, social media, partners, etc.
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Clean event space
- ☐ Map out School Fair booths
- ☐ Set up AV, if needed
- ☐ Set up tables and chairs
- ☐ Conduct school fair
- ☐ Take photos and post using #schoolchoiceweek

4

Community Service Ideas

Would you like to incorporate something that will have a positive impact on your community?

Check out the community service ideas on the following pages for inspiration.



Edible garden/ orchard

Plant a garden of things that are easy for visitors to collect and eat like tomatoes, strawberries, peppers, peas, and lettuce.

Edible Orchard: plant an orchard of trees and bushes that produce ample amounts of fruits like apples, blackberries, blueberries, and pears.



PRO TIPS

Keep in mind the season and climate that you're planting as this affects which crops will grow well!



PLAN

Decide where the garden or orchard will go. Will you want the community to have free access to the crops or will your school/organization be in charge of harvesting, storing and distribution. What roles will students have? What will you grow? Do you need to partner with a local organization? Is the project within walking distance, or will you need transportation? How many hours will it take to complete? Do you need any items/tools to complete the project? Do you need permission slips?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to start and complete the gardening? Get this on the books as early as possible and inform key players to avoid schedule conflicts. If the project involves partnering with another organization, reach out early.



INVITE

Send an email to all families informing them of the gardening project and the impact that it will have, including permission slips if needed.



FINALIZE

Do you have everything you need to successfully complete the project? Gather all last-minute items. Prepare your students for the impact that they are about to be making and why it is important.



PHOTOS AND FUN

From the design phase to the first dig to the first harvest, each step is worth documenting! Take photos for your school to look back on and watch the growth of your community garden and/or orchard.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Select a location for your garden or orchard
- ☐ Create a budget
- ☐ Set the date(s)
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Make a supply list
- ☐ Purchase or get supplies donated
- ☐ Schedule transportation if needed
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Check that you have permission slips back from everyone involved
- ☐ Prepare needed supplies
- ☐ Prepare the planting and gardening spots
- ☐ Complete planting and gardening process
- ☐ Monitor the garden or orchard for growth
- ☐ Take photos/videos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Warm clothes collection

Help outfit your community with cozy, cold-weather clothing with a drive where participants can drop off their gently used coats, gloves, and hats at your location(s).



PRO TIPS

Be sure to request that the donations be warm, clean, and in good condition.



PLAN

Where will the collection drive take place, will there be drop off bins throughout the community? What roles will the students have? Have students design posters and plan where they should go. Do you need to partner with a local organization? Where will the donations be taken after collection? How many hours will it take to complete? Do you need any items/tools to complete the project?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to complete the warm clothes collection? Get this on the books as early as possible and inform key players to avoid schedule conflicts. If the project involves partnering with another organization, reach out early.



INVITE

Send an email to all families informing them of the warm clothes collection drive and the impact that it will have, including permission slips if needed.



FINALIZE

Do you have everything you need to successfully complete the project? Gather all last-minute items. Prepare your students for the impact that they are about to be making and why it is important.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Your school is making a difference and meeting a crucial need in your community. Celebrate and embrace all the good that you are doing. Take photos to document along the way.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Select where you will collect warm clothing donations
- ☐ Select where you will donate the warm clothing collected
- ☐ Create a budget
- ☐ Set the date(s) and donation locations
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Make signage and flyers
- ☐ Post flyers around town and on social media
- ☐ Schedule transportation if needed
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Check that you have permission slips back if necessary
- ☐ Prepare and distribute collection bins and tables
- ☐ Complete clothing collection project
- ☐ Take photos/videos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Recycle collection

Teach kids and adults about recycling with a collection drive for cans, bottles, and cardboard! Have students sort them afterwards and then either deliver them to a recycling center or make up-cycled arts and crafts!



PLAN

Have students design posters and signage for the recycling project. Do you need to partner with a local organization? How long will the project take place? Do you need any bins, bags, or other items to complete the project? Do you need permission slips? Will you be taking students to visit a recycling center? Will you need transportation? How will you transport the recycled materials if your school does not plan to reuse them?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to complete the recycling project? Get this on the books as early as possible and inform key players to avoid schedule conflicts. If the project involves partnering with another organization, reach out early.



INVITE

Send an email to all families informing them of the recycling project and the impact that it will have, including permission slips if needed.



FINALIZE

Do you have everything you need to successfully complete the project? Gather all last-minute items. Prepare your students for the impact that they are about to be making and why it is important.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Recycling can be fun and beautiful! Be sure to take photos of your students and community members participating, as well as document any art projects.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Select where you will collect recyclables and of what type(s)
- ☐ Select where you will deliver all of the recyclable materials
- ☐ Create a budget
- ☐ Set the date(s) and donation locations
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Make signage and flyers
- ☐ Make a supply list
- ☐ Post flyers around town and on social media
- ☐ Schedule transportation if needed
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Check that you have permission slips back if necessary
- ☐ Prepare and distribute collection bins
- ☐ Complete recyclables collection project
- ☐ Take photos/videos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Community clean up day(s)

Team up with your local “green” organizations to host neighborhood/community cleanups over the week to keep litter off streets and streams. Participants lend a hand and enjoy physical and mental health benefits such as feeling a sense of accomplishment, getting exercise, enjoying the fresh air, meeting new people, and all that comes with living in cleaner surroundings.



PLAN

Design posters and sign up sheets and distribute them around your community. Decide where in your community you would like to focus on cleaning up and why. How many participants will you anticipate? What roles will the students have? Will you partner with a local organization? Is the clean up location within walking distance of the meeting location? How many hours will it take to complete? Do you need any items/tools for the clean up? Will you offer refreshments? Do you need permission slips?



SCHEDULE

What day(s) would you like to hold the community clean up? Get this on the books as early as possible and inform key players to avoid schedule conflicts. If the project involves partnering with another organization, reach out early. Contact your city waste management and recycling centers to alert about your potential need for additional pick up.



INVITE

Send an email to all families informing them of the community service project and the impact that it will have, including permission slips if needed.



FINALIZE

Do you have everything you need to successfully complete the clean up project? Gather all last-minute items. Prepare your students for the impact that they are about to be making and why it is important.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Your school and community have come together to make a positive change in the world. Celebrate and embrace all the good that you are doing each and every day. Take photos to document the day.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Select a community or park where you will clean up, and a meet up location
- ☐ Create a budget
- ☐ Set the date(s)
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Make flyers about event and include a volunteer sign up if you want
- ☐ Make a supply list
- ☐ Purchase or get supplies donated
- ☐ Schedule transportation if needed
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Check that you have permission slips back from everyone involved
- ☐ Prepare needed supplies
- ☐ Contact city waste management
- ☐ Complete community clean up project

Food drive

Collect non-perishable foods at your school or organization.



PRO TIPS

Double the awareness by naming it something like "School Choice Week Food Drive" and have flyers or cards ready to give to donors that tell them about the positive impacts of giving to their local food drives and supporting school choice in their community.



PLAN

Have students design flyers and decorate food collection bins. Will you need to partner with a local organization? Where will the flyers and collection bins be distributed within your community? Will the drive have a goal or a contest involved? How many days will the drive last? What roles will the students have? Will your students visit the local food donations centers? Do you need permission slips?



SCHEDULE

What days will your food drive be and what day would you like to complete the project? Get this on the books as early as possible and inform key players to avoid schedule conflicts. If the project involves partnering with another organization, reach out early.



INVITE

Send an email to all families informing them of the food drive and the impact that it will have, including permission slips if needed.



FINALIZE

Do you have everything you need to successfully complete the project? Gather all last-minute items. Prepare your students for the impact that they are about to be making and why it is important.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Take photos during the drive and celebrate the outcome. If you had a contest or a goal for the food drive, it's time to celebrate!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Select where you will collect food donations and of what type(s)
- ☐ Select where you will donate the collected food
- ☐ Create a budget
- ☐ Set the date(s) and donation locations
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Make signage and flyers
- ☐ Post flyers around town and on social media
- ☐ Schedule transportation if needed
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Check that you have permission slips back if necessary
- ☐ Prepare and distribute donation bins
- ☐ Complete food drive project
- ☐ Take photos/videos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Volunteer

Help out as a group at your local church or religious organization, food pantry, thrift store, fire department, retirement home, animal shelter, or afterschool program.



PRO TIPS

Older students can volunteer their time tutoring younger students, and visit local retirement homes to read to the seniors, play games with them, do crafts, or other activities.



PLAN

Have the students plan where the volunteering will take place. Do you have places in mind that could benefit from volunteers? Is the location within walking distance, or will you need a bus? How many hours will you be volunteering? Will you volunteer for multiple days, or at multiple places? Do you need permission slips?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to volunteer? Get this on the books as early as possible and inform key players to avoid schedule conflicts. Reach out to the organization early to let them know you will be coming and complete any necessary documentation.



INVITE

Send an email to all families informing them of the volunteering and invite them to join. Tell families about the impact that the chosen organization has on the community. Include any permission slips.



FINALIZE

Do you have everything you need to successfully volunteer? Gather any last-minute items. Prepare your students for the impact that they are about to be making and why it is important.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Celebrate and embrace all the good that you are doing each day you volunteer. Take photos to document the day(s) and share them.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Select a volunteering project and where you will volunteer
- ☐ Create a budget
- ☐ Set the date(s)
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Contact the organization you will be volunteering with
- ☐ Make a supply list
- ☐ Purchase or get supplies donated
- ☐ Schedule transportation if needed
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Check that you have permission slips back from everyone involved
- ☐ Prepare needed supplies
- ☐ Complete volunteering project
- ☐ Take photos/videos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Cooking/baking for charity

Organize a charity bake sale, a chili cook off, or pie baking contest with a small entry fee. Participants will enjoy it and you get to donate to a cause of your choosing!



PLAN

Have your students design how that charity cooking/baking event will be completed. Decide what roles the students will have. Do you need to partner with a local organization? Design posters and/or sign up sheets and decide where in the community to place them, or create an online sign up or ticket system. What date will the event take place and where? Do you need any set up or electricity access for the tables and guests? Do you need permission slips? Will you invite families and/or open the event to the community?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to have the event? Get this on the books as early as possible and inform key players to avoid schedule conflicts. If the project involves partnering with another organization, reach out early.



INVITE

Send an email to all families informing them of the event and the impact that it will have or the charity that the raised funds will support, including permission slips if needed.



FINALIZE

Do you have everything you need to successfully complete the event? Gather any last-minute items. Prepare your students for the impact that they are about to be making and why it is important.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Take photos and videos whenever possible. You can send some photos along with your donation to the charity and share your media with us to celebrate with you!

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Decide on what type of cooking or baking event you will hold
- ☐ Select the charity that will receive the funds raised
- ☐ Create a budget
- ☐ Set the date(s)
- ☐ Decide on location for the event
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Make flyers and invitations, include a sign up sheet if you want
- ☐ Make a supply list
- ☐ Purchase or get supplies donated
- ☐ Schedule transportation if needed
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Prepare the event location
- ☐ Prepare needed cooking/baking supplies
- ☐ Complete baking/cooking project
- ☐ Take photos/videos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Community dance workshop

Paint the town yellow and red by initiating a community dance workshop for all ages! Participants can learn and perform the NSCW dance together and walk away with a few new moves!



PLAN

Have students help design how the workshop will be completed and decide on their roles. Do you have certain staff, a dance or cheer team or theatrical group that you will involve in the workshop? Will the workshop be at your school or elsewhere in the community? Plan to have speakers, power source, internet access, and any other needs met prior to the workshop date. What time will the workshop be? Will there be different age-specific shops? How long will each workshop be? Do you need permission slips?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to complete the workshops? Get this on the books as early as possible and inform key players to avoid schedule conflicts. If the project involves partnering with another organization, reach out early.



INVITE

Send an email to all families informing them of the workshop and the impact that it will have, including permission slips if needed.



FINALIZE

Do you have everything you need to successfully complete the workshop? Gather any last-minute items.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Remember to have fun during the workshops and remind participants that fun is the goal! Take photos to document the workshops and share your moves with us and on your social media.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Select participants who will lead the dance workshops
- ☐ Decide on the dance workshop location
- ☐ Set the date(s)
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Make flyers and invitations, include a registration or sign up if needed
- ☐ Make a supply list
- ☐ Purchase or get supplies donated
- ☐ Schedule transportation if needed
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Check that you have permission slips back if needed
- ☐ Prepare needed supplies
- ☐ Prepare workshop location
- ☐ Complete dance workshop project
- ☐ Take photos/videos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Reading theater

Invite community members to your area to listen to volunteers read aloud some fantastic short stories to an audience of all ages.



PRO TIPS

You can invite city council members and special literacy volunteers to read, as well as parents, students and faculty. Get creative with the location if possible (ex: outdoor amphitheater, park, public library)



PLAN

Do you need to partner with a local figure or organization? Where will the reading be held? Who will your audience be (ages, reading levels, neighborhood demographics) How many hours will it take to complete? Do you need permission slips?



SCHEDULE

What day would you like to have the reading theater? Get this on the books as early as possible and inform key players to avoid schedule conflicts. If the project involves partnering with another organization, reach out early.



INVITE

Send an email to all families informing them of the reading theater and the impact that it will have, including permission slips if needed.



FINALIZE

Do you have everything you need to successfully complete the reading theater? Gather all last-minute items. Prepare your students for the impact that they are about to be making and why it is important.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Your school has made a positive impact on your community and brought people together to enjoy reading! Take photos to document the day and celebrate the readers and listeners.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Select participants who will lead the reading theater
- ☐ Decide on the reading location
- ☐ Set the date(s)
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Make flyers and invitations, include a registration or sign up if needed
- ☐ Make a supply list
- ☐ Schedule transportation if needed
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Check that you have permission slips back if needed
- ☐ Prepare needed supplies
- ☐ Prepare reading location
- ☐ Complete reading theater project
- ☐ Take photos/videos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

Support our soldiers

Put together care packages for deployed soldiers, write cards for deployed soldiers, and write cards to a VA hospital.



PRO TIPS

Different classes can collect different items and students can make cards to add into the boxes.



PLAN

Decide on how you will support your veterans and soldiers and design how that project will be completed and what roles the students will have. Find the troop that you would like to support. Asking students if they have any deployed family members may help with this process! Do you need to partner with a local figure or organization? Will you be traveling on foot or by bus? Do you need permission slips?



SCHEDULE

What day will you send the cards or packages, and will they be delivered in person or by mail? Get this on the books as early as possible and inform key players to avoid schedule conflicts. If the project involves partnering with another organization, reach out early.



INVITE

Send an email to all families informing them of the support our soldiers project and the impact that it will have, including permission slips if needed.



FINALIZE

Do you have everything you need to successfully complete the project? Gather all last-minute items. Prepare your students for the impact that they are about to be making and why it is important.



PHOTOS AND FUN

Your school is supporting soldiers and veterans in a life-lasting impactful way. Be sure to capture the memories on video or pictures and share them. These are also great keepsakes to share and look back on during veteran holidays throughout the year.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Take planning notes
- ☐ Select a troop or veteran organization that you will support and contact them
- ☐ Decide on a support project
- ☐ Create a budget
- ☐ Set the date(s)
- ☐ Request NSCW celebration supplies
- ☐ Make a supply list
- ☐ Purchase or get supplies donated
- ☐ Schedule transportation if needed
- ☐ Send a reminder
- ☐ Check that you have permission slips back from everyone involved
- ☐ Prepare needed supplies
- ☐ Complete support project
- ☐ Take photos/videos and share online using #schoolchoiceweek

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Virtual Events

It is important that ALL families feel included and celebrated during NSCW. Our team can always help you adapt any event to better suit your virtual school. Here are some of our tips and tricks, along with our favorite ideas.





Ideas:



Virtual game night

Host a virtual family game night.

PRO TIP: Jeopardy would make a great virtual game night game!



Virtual field trip

Schedule a virtual field trip for your students.

PRO TIP: Take virtual tours of museums, aquariums, international sites, zoos, national parks, etc. Have students write down their favorite thing about the virtual field trip, or answer questions throughout to hold their attention.



Virtual book club

Host a virtual book club meeting for your students.

PRO TIP: Have students vote on the book they want to focus on.



Virtual movie night

Host a virtual family movie night.

PRO TIP: Choose a theme for even more fun! Disney, Harry Potter, Star Wars, etc.



Virtual school play

Host a virtual school play.

PRO TIP: Have your students write the play they will perform for added involvement!



Virtual talent show

Host a virtual talent show.

PRO TIP: Encourage students to think outside the box! They can paint, do gymnastics, cook, etc.



Virtual open house

Host a virtual open house for potential students and families.

PRO TIP: Encourage current families to invite other families they know interested in virtual schooling.



Virtual dance party

Give your students a dance break during the day.

PRO TIP: Use our NSCW song for added school choice fun!

MEET OWLBERT

Meet Owlbert Hoot, a charming stuffed owl who resides in a cozy tree in the heart of 25 Wisdom Lane.

With a passion for learning and a love for school choice, Owlbert is here to inspire and educate children and adults alike.



THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL CHOICE

Owlbert believes every child deserves the opportunity to pursue their educational journey in a way that best suits their needs and interests. Whether a traditional public school, a public charter school, public magnet school, private school, homeschool, online learning, or a microschool, Owlbert advocates for the power of choice in education.

CHECK OUT OWLBERT'S BAG OF ACTIVITIES

Through colorful storytelling, engaging activities, and interactive learning experiences, Owlbert brings the magic of education to life in a fun and entertaining way. Click on the QR code below to explore some of the fun and engaging activities available:



AS YOU SHARE ABOUT THE WEEK ONLINE, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAG US AND USE:

#SCHOOLCHOICEWEEK

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, NEED ASSISTANCE, OR HAVE EVENT PHOTOS
TO EMAIL, PLEASE CONTACT ENGAGEMENT@SCHOOLCHOICEWEEK.COM



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