

Has Your Child Had a Successful Year in School?

In March, parents should evaluate their child's school year. Is she learning? Does he get good grades? Does she get good marks for behavior? Has he made friends? Does she like going to school? Has the year been positive for him?



If the answer is no, contact your child's school now. Next year is too late. Parents must plan ahead to help their child have success in school. Your child may have a problem, disability or behavior that prevents deserved success.

If you think your child has a disability:

1. Call your child's school today. Ask to meet with her teachers and the school principal. Tell them the concerns you have about your child's progress. Ask what you can do to work with the school.
2. Write a letter to your child's school. Request testing and a plan for services.

Talking to teachers and office staff is hard for parents. You may be scared and angry. What should you say? The school wants to know that you are concerned and willing to help. It is best to present this in a calm, respectful voice. We suggest you take a trusting, calm adult with you to the meeting. They can keep you on track and take notes.

You are your child's advocate and protector. You know your child's needs better than anyone else. If your child is failing or not doing the best he can, you need to find out why. The school **must** help you find answers. Never leave a meeting without some solution to your child's problems. One of those solutions should always be another meeting to check on your child's progress.

It is very important for you to keep a record file:

1. Name, topic and date for each call to the school;
2. Meetings at school - dates, times and staff present;
3. Notes and letters you sent to the school.
4. All letters and notes from the school staff.

Keep your papers together in a notebook in a special place.

Laws are on the side of your child. All public school children have a right to free, appropriate public education (FAPE). Does your child have a condition or disability that interferes with her education? The school **must** help her receive the proper education she deserves.

You are your child's link to these services. You and your child's school district are a team. Together, you hold the key to success for your child.

Call the Parent Help Line. We listen. We can find you help.

1-217-544-5808 or 1-888-727-5889 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week.