

MAKING SURE YOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILD STARTS ON A PATH TOWARDS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

The elementary school years are when students develop learning habits that will help them throughout their educational careers. During these important years, there is an emphasis on reading, writing, and math skills which are the foundation for learning in all subjects.

What can I do to help my elementary school child start on a path towards graduation?



- **Encourage learning** by communicating high, yet reasonable, expectations for your child's education.
- **Be involved in your child's education** by assisting with homework and knowing the curriculum.
- **Make sure your child has regular attendance** and is on time and in school every day.
- **Don't ignore misbehavior and poor conduct** as these can be signals that your child is having learning difficulties. Work with teachers/administrators to develop a plan to encourage positive behaviors.
- **Monitor reading, writing and math Skills.** Set high expectations but be aware that some children will need special interventions to develop these skills.
- **Attend parent-teacher conferences** and work with teachers to understand and support goals and expectations for your child.
- **Talk to your child** and find out what they are doing in school and discuss what they are learning on a daily basis.
- **Stay involved** by attending school activities and volunteering as these are good ways to get know your child and their school.
- **Seek academic help for your child if needed**, as some students benefit from tutoring and extra academic assistance.
- **Be aware of signs of bullying, learning disabilities, or health concerns** which might be the reason for your child's poor performance or unhappiness at school.
- **If your child has an IEP**, make sure they are included with their typical peers in all areas of the school.
- **Make sure your child with an IEP** has academic goals that are in line with the general curriculum and is keeping pace with others in their grade level.
- **Confirm your child with an IEP** has access to and is using the necessary accommodations to be successful.
- **Make sure your child takes medications that are prescribed, and lives a healthy lifestyle** that includes a healthy diet, plenty of exercise and sleep.

Where to go for more information:

Parent to Parent of Georgia 770-451-5484 or 800-229-2038 or www.p2pga.org

Georgia Department of Education, Division for Special Education Services and Supports

404-656-3963 or 800-311-3627 and ask to be transferred to Special Education

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/default.aspx>

Graduation Requirements

<http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/State-Board-of-Education/SBOE%20Rules/160-4-2-.48.pdf>

Career, Technical and Agricultural Education

<http://www.gadoe.org/curriculum-instruction-and-assessment/ctae/pages/default.aspx>

Additional resources: Contact the Special Education Director for your school system.

Credits:

National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET)

PACER Center

US Department of Education (Ed.gov)

