**Achievement Every Year**

**WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW**

**WHY SHOULD WE FOCUS ON ACHIEVEMENT?**

- Grade level achievement is critical to long-term success in college, work, and life.
- Parents play a critical role in helping their child to make satisfactory progress.
- Students especially depend upon their parents for ensuring their learning needs are met in and out of school and for monitoring their homework.

**HOW IS ACHIEVEMENT CONNECTED TO SUCCESS?**

- Reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade is critical to students being able to read to learn in all of their subjects.
- A sixth grader who fails math or English, has an unsatisfactory behavior, or poor attendance has a 75% likelihood of dropping out.
- Freshmen in Chicago public schools who earn a B average or better have an 80% chance of finishing high school with at least a 3.0 GPA.

**HELPING PARENTS**

**WHAT SCHOOLS CAN DO**

- **Inform** parents about what children are expected to learn and do at every grade level through school orientations as well as school newsletters.
- **Hold** parent/teacher conferences to identify strengths and strategies for improving student success in school.
- **Identify** non-traditional ways to connect with parents unable to attend regularly scheduled parent/teacher conferences.
- **Communicate** regularly about children’s progress, not just when problems arise.
- **Send** home homework or learning assignments.

**WHAT COMMUNITY AGENCIES CAN DO**

- **Partner** with schools to help parents understand what to expect in a high quality educational program and how to determine the best match for their child.
- **Help** to identify positive solutions when conflicts arise between school staff and parents about how to promote a child’s academic achievement.
- **Assist** parents in identifying when their child might be at risk because of an undetected learning disability and/or they are disengaging from school.
- **Partner** with schools to offer workshops on family math and literacy as well as other relevant parenting topics.
- **Use** home visitors who reflect the cultural and linguistic background of families to help parents acquire skills to help their children at home.

**WHAT PARENTS CAN DO**

- **Think** about the kind of educational program your child needs to learn and thrive, and seek placement in those schools which meet his or her needs.
- **Know** your child’s teachers. Let teachers know that you want to be contacted immediately about any concerns.
- **Attend** parent-teacher conferences and regularly seek out information about your child's progress.
- **Request** a developmental assessment if a learning disability is suspected.
- **Watch** for signs that your child might be at risk.
- **Use** activities at home to develop their knowledge and skills, and utilize community resources (museums, libraries, youth centers) to create additional opportunities for learning.

---

Parent Engagement Toolkit | www.americaspromise.org/parentengagement