

Do You Know?

Parental Guide

Do you know key support personnel at your child's school?

- In addition to teachers and administrators, schools are comprised with numerous support personnel that facilitate your child's education in very direct and indirect ways. The following are support staff you may or may not be aware of: school psychologists, school social workers, instructional coaches, school nurses, lead teachers (support special education), speech and language pathologist, occupational therapist, physical therapists, and child find coordinators.

Do you know what to do if your child is experiencing academic/behavioral challenges or failure?

- All schools have a Student Support Team (SST), which is a problem-solving process designed to address your child's academic, behavioral, social, or emotional needs. The team may consist of a chairperson, your child's teacher(s), support personnel, and the parent/guardian or designee. The SST will come up with a plan to address your child's needs. If deemed necessary by the team, the child can be referred for an evaluation to determine if he/she has a disability that's impacting their education. As a parent, you have the right to make a request for the SST process to begin at any time.

Do you know what to do if you are unsatisfied with your child's school?

- It is always recommended to attempt to resolve any issues "in house" first by speaking with teacher and/or administrators. However, if the issue is not resolved to your satisfaction, you have the right to contact individuals in central office (i.e. Executive Director, Area Superintendent, etc).

Do you know school board meetings are open to parents and the general public?

- Parental involvement means not only advocating and supporting your child within their given school, but supporting and/or challenging policies and laws that may ultimately impact your child's education. The meeting dates/times are often found on the home page of your school district's website, or you can ask your school for this information.

Do you know what to do if you are experiencing significant financial hardships, including homelessness, difficulty obtaining school supplies, etc?

- School social workers are a great resource to assist our students. They are very knowledgeable about community and school resources, and they will be of great benefit to ensure support is offered to your child and family. Feel free to contact your school for the social worker's contact information. All information shared is confidential.