

KEEPING YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT ON A PATH TO GRADUATION

Middle School experiences play an important role in a student's path to high school graduation. The middle school years are the launching pad for a high school education that enables all students to obtain the schooling and/or career training they will need to become successful adults.

Parents play an important role in the successful outcomes of middle school students. Here are some tips parents can use to keep their middle school student on the path to graduation:



- **Make sure your child attends school regularly** and is on time and in school every day.
- **Don't ignore misbehavior and poor conduct** as these may be signs that your child is disengaging from school.
- **Monitor grades and course performance** and meet with your child's teacher if he/she needs help to be successful. Set high expectations for your child.
- **Attend parent-teacher conferences.** Work collaboratively with your child's teachers and talk to them about goals and expectations for your child.
- **Talk to your child.** Find out what he or she is doing in school and discuss what he or she has learned on a daily basis.
- **Listen to your child** and teach them to advocate for themselves. Teach them to ask for help if needed.
- **Stay involved with school.** This is the best way to know how and what your child is doing at school.
- **Encourage participation in extra-curricular activities.** Students that are involved in sports, clubs and other school activities will be more likely to want to stay in school.
- **Seek academic help.** Some students may benefit from tutoring and extra academic assistance to help them.
- **Be aware of signs that your child is unhappy.** Look for signs of bullying, learning disabilities and/or health concerns as a possible reason for your child's poor performance or unhappiness at school.
- **If your child has an IEP,** make sure they have access to the general curriculum and that IEP goals are ones that will keep them on track for a high school diploma (taking the right courses, earning credits, etc.).
- **Check that your child with an IEP** has access to and is using the necessary accommodations to be successful.
- **Encourage your child to take prescribed medications and live 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)

