

MAKING SURE YOUR PRESCHOOLER STARTS ON A PATH TOWARDS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION



The preschool years are the time when young children are developing social, cognitive and language skills that will prepare them for their educational careers. During these years, children gain an enthusiasm for learning, emotional security and self-confidence, language proficiency and an ability to regulate their own behavior, setting them on a path to high school graduation.

What can I do to help my preschooler start on a path towards graduation?

- **Encourage independence** by expecting more from your child.
- **Resist doing for them when they can do for themselves.** Allow them to do simple things like dress themselves or clean up after meals.
- **Praise their efforts**, even if their bed is not made perfect or their clothing choices are not the same as yours.
- **Encourage friendships** through social, recreational and sports activities.
- **Develop predictable routines** so that your child knows what to expect each day.
- **Don't ignore misbehavior and poor conduct** at preschool. Work with the school to develop a plan to encourage positive behaviors.
- **Read to your child and with your child.** Encourage their interest in books.
- **Provide opportunities** to play games, sing songs, and engage in science, math, art and writing activities.
- **Encourage your child to experiment and discover**, within limits.
- **Establish a communication system with the preschool** so that you know what is happening on a daily basis with your child.
- **Speak in positive ways** about school, teachers and classmates.
- **Talk to your child** and find out what they are doing in school. Ask about friends and activities.
- **Attend and volunteer at school activities.** These are good ways to support your child's efforts.
- **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.
- **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 Early Learning and Development Standards (GELDS)

<http://www.gelds.dec.state.ga.us/>

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>

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

Credits:

US Department of Education http://www2.ed.gov/parents/earlychild/ready/preschool/part_pg8.html#p8



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.

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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)

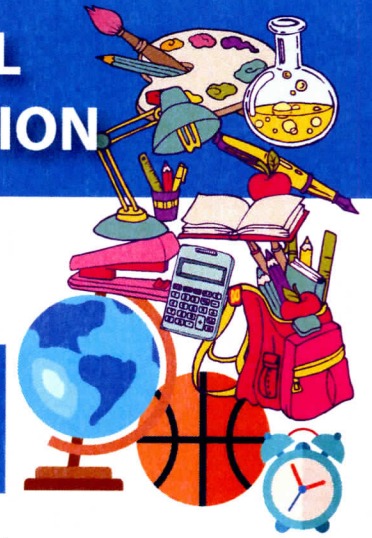
PACER Center

US Department of Education (Ed.gov)



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.

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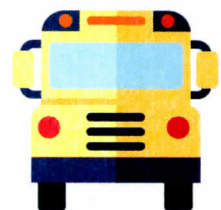
Career, Technical and Agricultural Education

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

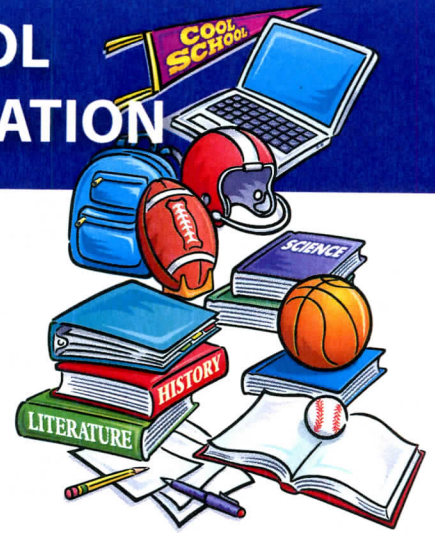
Additional resources: Contact the Special Education Director for your school system.

Credits:

National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET), PACER Center, US Department of Education (Ed.gov)



KEEPING YOUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ON A PATH TO GRADUATION



Parents and other family members can help keep high school students on a path that will lead to a diploma!

- **Make graduation a priority.**
- **Be aware of your children's attendance** and encourage them to be on time and in school every day.
- **Know who they are hanging out with** as they are most likely to mimic the behaviors of their friends.
- **Keep an eye on grades** and make sure they are staying on track for graduation.
- **Attend parent-teacher meetings** and talk about goals and expectations for your child.
- **Help your child explore careers** and understand the necessary education and/or training.
- **Teach your children to speak for themselves** and allow them to make choices and decisions.
- **Attend and volunteer at school activities** as a way to know what is happening at the school.
- **Encourage your children to join clubs and/or play sports** and they will be more likely to want to stay in school.
- **Seek tutoring and extra academic assistance** to help them through difficult classes.
- **Look for signs of bullying, learning difficulties, or health concerns** that may be reasons for your child's poor performance or unhappiness at school.
- **Seek out resources and supports outside of the school when needed.**
- **Look for online resources** to address specific concerns and questions.
- **If your child has an IEP**, make sure he or she is part of the IEP team and involved in the transition plan.
- **Make sure your child's IEP goals align with the requirements for a High School diploma.** Goals should focus on academics and include the supports and any accommodations needed in order to participate and pass the required coursework.
- **Check that your child has access to and is using** the necessary accommodations to be successful.
- **Remember, students with IEPs can stay longer in high school and receive extra supports** in order to help them complete the necessary coursework to graduate with a regular high school diploma.

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