



YOUR ROLE MATTERS: 6 WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING IN HIGH SCHOOL

You are an important partner in your child's education. These six roles offer simple ways to support learning at home and partner with your child's school.

Learn a role. → Try an action. → Ask a question.

*Karen L. Mapp, K. L. and Eyal Bergman. (2019). Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships (Version 2)



Know Grade Level Expectations

Develop a clear picture of the skills and knowledge your teen should have at their grade level so you can **monitor** their progress.

Monitor



Understand What Your Child is Learning

Know the subjects, topics, and skills your teen is working on so you can **model** curiosity and a love of learning through conversations at home.

Model



Collaborate with Educators to Set Goals

Partner with educators to **co-create** learning goals and experiences that reflect your teen's needs and strengths.

Co-Create



Reinforce Learning at Home

Ask educators for tools and strategies so you can **support** your teen at home and reinforce what they're learning in class.

Support



Speak Up for Your Child

Partner with educators to **advocate** for your teen's needs by sharing observations and asking questions to ensure they have what they need to thrive.

Advocate



Celebrate Achievement and Growth

Work with educators to **encourage** growth by celebrating effort, progress and achievements.

Encourage



MONITOR

MONITOR

means you understand what your child should know and be able to do.



MODEL



CO-CREATE



SUPPORT



ADVOCATE



ENCOURAGE

Take Action!

- ☒ Check the online grade portal often for assignments and grades, and encourage your teen to track their own progress too.
- ☒ Before conferences, email your teen's teacher with questions and goals, highlighting what you'd like to focus on, including progress, challenges, and ways to support learning.
- ☒ Talk with teachers and your teen's counselor to understand graduation requirements and choose courses that build skills and support post-high school goals.
- ☒ Review your teen's extracurricular and work commitments to ensure they're balanced with school responsibilities.

Ask Your Teen's School Team

- ☐ Which classes and credit requirements does my teen need to complete in order to graduate?
- ☐ Where does my teen's current GPA stand, and how could it influence graduation or future opportunities?
- ☐ What key deadlines or milestones should we keep in mind to stay on pace for graduation?



MONITOR



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ENCOURAGE

MODEL

means you lead by example.

Take Action!

- ✓ Communicate high expectations by connecting schoolwork to future goals. Knowing you expect success motivates teens to prepare for college, careers, and life after graduation.
- ✓ Model learning by exploring ideas, asking questions, and showing how to tackle challenges. Involve your teen to demonstrate problem-solving and curiosity.
- ✓ Demonstrate how you prioritize: let your teen see the process you use to determine which tasks are most important and address them first.
- ✓ Show your teen how to budget, save, and make smart spending choices using real-life examples like planning a purchase or comparing options.

Ask Your Teen's School Team

- What can I do to model independence while still staying supportive and involved?
- What strategies can you share for me to model approaching challenging assignments effectively?
- How can I model exploring options for college, trade school, or careers so my teen sees the process in action?



MONITOR



MODEL



CO-CREATE



SUPPORT



ADVOCATE



ENCOURAGE

CO-CREATE

means you show up as a true partner to help solve problems, make decisions, and share ideas.

Take Action!

- ☒ Provide teachers and counselors with information about your teen's strengths, interests, and challenges to help tailor instruction and support.
- ☒ Join course selection discussions and graduation planning meetings with teachers and counselors to make sure your teen's courses align with their goals.
- ☒ Meet with teachers and counselors to explore pathways like college, trade school, or apprenticeships, and help your teen plan steps to reach their goals.
- ☒ Approach challenges with a team mindset, collaborating with teachers and school staff to support your teen's learning and social-emotional growth.

Ask Your Teen's School Team

- ☐ Does my teen have guidance from a counselor or advisor to create a personalized plan for life after graduation?
- ☐ Are there specific tests, projects, or assessments my teen must pass to earn their diploma?
- ☐ Are there other graduation requirements my teen must fulfill, like community service, attendance, or portfolios?



MONITOR



MODEL



CO-CREATE



SUPPORT



ADVOCATE



ENCOURAGE

SUPPORT

means your child has the time, space and help at home to build their reading & math skills.

Take Action!

- ☒ Talk with your teen about how the skills they are learning now can help them achieve their long-term goals and prepare for life after high school.
- ☒ Support test readiness by helping your teen use practice tests and study guides for the SAT, ACT, AP, or state exams to build skills, strategies, and confidence.
- ☒ Encourage your teen to use planners or apps to track assignments, deadlines, and test dates, and check in regularly on their progress.
- ☒ Help your teen access study guides, tutoring, online resources, or quiet spaces to complete assignments and prepare for tests effectively.

Ask Your Teen's School Team

- ☐ What actions should my teen be taking now, starting in 9th grade, to strengthen their college or career readiness?
- ☐ How well is my teen understanding the concepts and skills being taught in their classes?
- ☐ How is my teen keeping up with assignments and managing their responsibilities?



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CO-CREATE



SUPPORT



ADVOCATE



ENCOURAGE

ADVOCATE

means you ensure your child has the necessary support, resources, and opportunities to access their full education.

Take Action!

- ☒ Request additional support when needed by asking about accommodations, counseling, or other supports if your teen faces academic or social-emotional challenges.
- ☒ Advocate for fair opportunities by ensuring your teen has access to advanced classes, enrichment, or extracurriculars regardless of background or perceived ability.
- ☒ Stay informed about post-secondary planning by asking teachers and counselors about college, trade school, or career pathways and the steps your teen should take.
- ☒ Support independence by encouraging your teen to email teachers with questions, seek clarification, or request extra help when needed.

Ask Your Teen's School Team

- ☐ Is my teen on track academically for their grade level to ensure they graduate on time?
- ☐ Is my teen participating in classes or programs that match their interests or future goals, like dual enrollment, career programs, or internships?
- ☐ What steps should my teen be focusing on this year to meet applications, financial aid, and other important deadlines?



MONITOR



MODEL



CO-CREATE



SUPPORT



ADVOCATE



ENCOURAGE

means you are your child's cheerleader and #1 fan!

Take Action!

- ☒ Praise your teen's effort on challenging tasks, and remind them that persistence, practice, and learning from mistakes lead to improvement.
- ☒ Encourage reflection by asking your teen to share what they learned or found interesting. This shows them you value their thinking.
- ☒ Give positive feedback. Highlighting your teens strengths and progress encourages confidence, motivation, and a willingness to keep learning.
- ☒ Celebrate small successes by recognizing daily wins, like completed assignments, or improvements in skills, to reinforce effort and build momentum.

Ask Your Teen's School Team

- ☐ What areas is my teen showing the most improvement in right now?
- ☐ What small successes or milestones should I celebrate to build their confidence?
- ☐ What opportunities exist for my teen to take on meaningful leadership roles or responsibilities in the classroom that will strengthen their confidence?