

WHAT CAN A PARENT DO?

1. Know your school. Know your child's teacher. Know the principal. Know the stated philosophy. Know the school schedule.

If possible, work as a volunteer in the school.

Join and participate in the Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

The more involvement you have with the school, the more your child will consider it an important place.

2. Observe in your child's classroom (The purpose of an observation is to gain understanding of the environment, the instructional techniques, the implementation of the school philosophy.) Having observed, you will have greater understanding when your child or his/her teacher issues a concern/complaint.

3. Request an interview with the child's teacher (s):

Take in a list of the following questions and write down the answers:

1. What is the problem?

2. What will the teacher, school, principal do about it?

3. How can you (parents) help?

4. Why will the agreed-upon solution work?

5. If the problem is not solved, what happens next?

4. Request an interview with the school principal.

(Principals set the academic tone of a school.)

Bring all of your notes from the observation and interviews. Write down your questions before the interview, write down the answers. (You may ask to bring someone to take notes which is usually allowed.)

1. Determine the principal's knowledge and opinion of the problem which concerns you.

2. Ask the principal to suggest some alternatives for addressing the problem.

3. Ask who will be responsible for providing a program in which your child is successful.

4. Ask what you can do to be helpful (Be sure you do it!)

5. Agree upon a date to review progress in addressing your concerns.

6. Ask for a copy of the District Appeal Procedure (which is supposed to be provided to you if you ask.)

(If nothing changes, recognize the guidelines support that "No decision is a decision")

5. Go to the top.

Phone the school board office, ask for an appointment with the Director or Assistant Superintendent or Superintendent responsible for services to students with special needs. Follow the steps of the principal's interview.

6. Request a meeting with the School Board. Present your concern and a written chronology of the actions you have taken to date. Ask the Board for assistance. Write down whatever they say. Ask the same question as of the principal.

7. According to the School Act, if your concerns are not addressed adequately, your recourse is the Court System.