

# Monitoring Your Child's School Progress & Getting Assistance

By Dr. Leslie Strasser Murdock



*A new school semester began in January and, therefore, a fresh start for many of our children in school. It's nice to start off the semester telling your child about this new beginning and making some realistic goals on how they can either improve or continue to do well in school. You can periodically check to see how your child is doing on these goals throughout the semester and even reward them as they move towards achieving their goals.*

By approximately half way through the semester (end of March), parents of children in elementary school—and children themselves in middle and high school—will be notified if they are failing or getting unsatisfactory grades. However hopefully you will know well before then if your child is struggling in school.

To monitor your child's grades, you should sign up for the CCSD's **Parent Portal**. The Parent Portal will give you real time information on your child's grades. You can do this through your child's school registrar or ask your child's school's office for access.

Also, about one month – six weeks into the semester, I recommend checking in with your child's teacher (elementary) or counselor/Foster Care Advocate (middle and high) to find out how he/she is doing.

In middle school and high school, you can set up a 10 – 15 minute meeting with all your child's teachers before school through your child's counselor. You can also ask to be notified directly if you do not think your child will tell you if he/she is struggling.

If your child is not doing well in school, find out why the child is struggling (i.e. not understanding the work, not turning it in, not paying attention in class and missing instruction). Ask your child's teacher/counselor what assistance is available via school, such as tutoring, interventions (ask about Response to Intervention) and specialists who can work with your child in reading, writing, math, etc.

At the elementary school level, reading specialists are assigned to ensure all students read by third grade. At the middle and high school level, there are often remedial classes, study skills classes and after-school tutoring available on campus.

We are currently working with CCSD to get more assistance for your children, so stay tuned for further supports. Should you need more intense services or need more targeted advice to help your child succeed in school, please contact your child's caseworker for additional support.



*Leslie Strasser Murdock, Ph.D., J.D., is the educational liaison for the Clark County Department of Family Services and owner/CEO of ELM Educational Consulting. An adjunct professor in the School of Education at Nevada State College and at UNLV's Boyd School of Law, Dr. Murdock has more than 16 years of experience in the educational field.*