Monitoring Your Child's School Progress and Get Assistance

Hi Everyone! January holds the beginning of a new semester and therefore, a fresh start for many of our children in school. It is nice to start the semester off 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. Ask your child what he/she hopes to achieve this semester, what he/she can do to achieve that goal, and how you can help him/her in that process. You can periodically check to see how your child is doing on these goals throughout the semester and even reward him/her as she/he moves towards achieving the goals.

By approximately halfway through the semester (beginning of March), parents will be notified if their children are failing or getting unsatisfactory grades. However hopefully you will know well before then if you child is struggling is 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.

I also recommend checking in with your child's teacher (elementary) or child's counselor/Foster Care Advocate (middle and high) to find out how your child is doing in school between a month and six weeks into the semester. In middle and high school, you can set up a meeting with all your child's teachers for 10-15 minutes before school through your child's counselor. You can also ask to be notified directly if you do not think your child in middle and high school will tell you if he/she is struggling in school.

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), specialists who can work with your child in Reading, Writing, and Math etc.

At the elementary school level, there are reading specialists assigned to ensure all students read by 3rd grade and learning interventionists available at school.

At the middle and high school level, there are often remedial classes, study skills classes, and after school tutoring available on campus.

If you suspect your child has a disability or your child has a documented disability and believe your child needs either a 504 accommodations plan (plan that can remove any disability barriers and adjust the teaching/classroom expectations for your child) or special education services (the need for a more targeted education plan with a special education teacher involved and possible pull out services) please write a letter about your child's suspected disability and why the child needs a 504 plan or special education services to your child's principal. They should get back to you within 2 weeks to schedule a meeting about your request.

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. You can get support from the Legal Aid Center's Education Advocacy Program at 702-386-1070 Option 5 or at specialed@lacsn.org.