

School Success for Children Parent's Guide to Working with Schools

Every child deserves a positive school experience.

As caretaker, you have an important role in your child's education. Working with the school can be confusing, particularly if your child has medical or learning needs.

Be a part of your child's school experience.

Communicate with the School

Tell them about your child. Let them know your child's learning and personal strengths. Let them know if you have concerns about your child's academic or social skills. Contact the school either before the school year starts or early in the school year.

Have a Plan

Ask the school how they are going to help your child. Schedule a time to meet and discuss your child. Make a plan for follow up meetings. Contact the school to remind them about the meeting.

Keep a Log

Keep everything in writing. Your log should include the meeting date, where it took place, the names and positions of the people who were there and what they promised to do. Write down contact information for everyone who came to the meeting. Include the date of the next meeting.



Understand What is Happening

Understand how the school is helping your child. Ask questions if the plan sounds confusing.

Don't Wait

Call the school. Don't wait until there is a problem. Don't wait until the school contacts you.

Include Your Child

Keep talking about school. Ask your child about learning. Talk about successes and challenges. Call the school if your child is having problems.

See the other side of this flyer to learn what you can do to help your child at school with Medical Issues and Learning Issues.

Medical Issues

Children with medical issues that impact their learning may need special help or “accommodations.”

IT IS THE LAW: The Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 protect children with medical needs.

Schedule a Meeting

The meeting includes you and school staff who will be working with your child – administrators, teachers, the nurse, etc.

What will Happen

You will talk about the child’s disability and his/her schooling. A “504 Plan” will be written. The 504 Plan will list modifications to your child’s school experience. Every child is different, so every 504 Plan is different.

Examples of Modifications or “Accommodations”

- Door to door transportation
- Tutoring
- Extra set of books at home
- Extra breaks for bathroom, nurse or social worker
- Extra time for tests



Learning Issues

Children with learning issues should get help.

IT IS THE LAW: The Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) requires schools to evaluate and assist children who need - or seem to need - special education services.

Schedule a Meeting

The meeting includes you and school staff who work with your child. Ask that your child be tested. Explain why you are worried. Write down what the school promised to do. Contact the school if nothing has happened

What will Happen

Your child should be tested. Tests will show if your child has a disability, learning problems, need for special education, need for other help such as speech therapy or physical therapy, etc.

What is the Plan

A PPT (Planning and Placement Team) will meet. This includes you, the teacher, special education teacher and special services (speech, social worker, etc). There will be a plan for special education help and other services.

Understand the Plan

The plan can be confusing. Make sure you understand. Don’t feel rushed or embarrassed that you don’t understand. Ask questions. Get the plan in writing. Get a date for a follow up meeting.

Continue to be Involved

Talk to your child. Talk to the school and the teachers. Make sure your child is getting help. Schedule a meeting if there are problems or if your child needs more help.

Problems with the School

Complain. Schedule a meeting.
Call the Center for Children’s Advocacy

Center for Children’s Advocacy Medical-Legal Partnership Project kidscounsel.org/mlpp

Attorney Bonnie Roswig 860-545-8581
broswig@connecticutchildrens.org

Attorney Jay Sicklick 860-714-1412
sicklick@kidscounsel.org

Attorney Alice Rosenthal 203-688-0113
arosenthal@kidscounsel.org

Other Connecticut Special Education Resources

State Department of Education 860-713-5000

Office of Protection and Advocacy
for Persons with Disabilities 860-297-4300

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