

# The Valuable Role of Parents in Student Success

All parents want their children to make friends, have positive experiences, and succeed in school. But many parents underestimate how important they are in making those things happen.

## The Research is Clear...

- ▶ Parents make a meaningful difference to their children's education.
- ▶ When families are involved in education, student achievement increases

## How do you make a difference?

- ▶ **Simply demonstrating that you value education is more meaningful than you might think. Research shows that when families promote the benefits of a good education, students' outcomes improve.**
- ▶ **Creating a positive educational environment at home is essential. You support your children's educational success by ...**
  - talking to your children about school and why you think it is so important.
  - showing an interest in what they are learning.
  - encouraging your children to do their best.
- ▶ **Being able to read is a foundation for educational success. And the good news is, you don't have to be a teaching expert to build your children's reading skills. You help your children's literacy and language development by ...**
  - Helping your children access books, such as using the library in the school or in town to bring books into your home.
  - Reading to your children or listening to them read to you.
  - Telling stories.
  - Talking with your children about topics that interest them.
- ▶ **Students must attend regularly in order to succeed in school.**
  - Making sure your children arrive at school on time every day is crucial.

- Teaching children to arrive at school on time each day also builds habits that will benefit them throughout their lives.
- ▶ **Students need to be rested and ready to learn.**
  - Helping your children (even stubborn teenagers) get to bed at a reasonable time improves their ability to concentrate. Adequate sleep helps children and teens absorb new knowledge and manage their behaviour.
  - Encouraging your children (even picky eaters) to eat nutritious foods ensures they will have enough energy to learn and fully participate in school activities.
- ▶ **Meeting with teachers and school staff who support your children is critical. When school staff and families work in partnership, students benefit. What can you do?**
  - Get to know your children’s teachers early in the school year, and do what you can to build a positive relationship with them.
  - Read your children’s report cards carefully and pay close attention to their progress in school. Follow-up with teachers if you have specific questions.
  - Read reports and notices sent to you about your child’s progress, about whether they are keeping up with assignments, etc.
  - Attend parent-teacher meetings.
  - Work together with school staff to maintain high expectations for your children.
  - Share your knowledge about what your children do well and what helps them learn.
- ▶ **Students need routines and a space at home to help them study.**
  - Try to set aside regular times for your children to do homework, prepare for tests, read, etc.
  - As much as you can, find a time and space that is quiet, free from distractions, comfortable, and well-lit where your children can do their schoolwork. Don’t wait until too late in the evening, when your children will be tired and they should be going to bed.
  - Help your children organize the things they need for studying so they don’t waste time running around looking for supplies, materials, charge cords, etc.
  - Turn off phones so your children aren’t tempted to text and check the internet when they are supposed to be studying.
- ▶ **Do not underestimate the real difference you make in your children’s educational success. You are helping them learn and succeed each and every day.**