



# WHAT TO ASK YOUR SCHOOL

Asking your school the right questions ensures your student gets a quality education that prepares them for the future.

## WAYS TO CONNECT

High quality schools welcome families as partners in their children's education. Attending Parent Teacher Conferences, going to Back to School Night, or requesting time to meet with your student's teacher(s) and Principal is a great way to stay on the same team and make sure your child succeeds!

You do not need to ask every question. Focus on the questions that matter the most to you and your student's education. There are spaces below each question for any notes.

If the answer is no to any of the questions, you can easily followup by asking "Is there a reason why?" and "What are your plans for next year?".

## HOW TO PREPARE

1. Review your student's recent work
2. Ask your student how they feel about school, their classes, and what they would like to do when they grow up
3. Review the questions below and write down any additional topics you want to discuss before the conversation.

## WHAT TO ASK

Below are questions grouped by topic to help guide your conversation with your teacher, principal, or school board to learn how your school is making sure your student gets the education they need to succeed.

## READING

### 1. Is my child reading at grade level? If yes, how can we stay on grade level? If no, how can we catch up this year?

*Understanding if your child is reading at grade level helps track their progress and identify resources to maintain or improve their skills. And if your child is behind, a well-developed plan is critical to ensure they catch up and stay on track.*

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### 2. What are the reading skills my child is expected to learn this year?

*Knowing the expected reading skills for the year helps you support your child's learning at home and monitor their progress.*

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## CAREER AND COLLEGE PREPARATION PATHWAY [FOR MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS]

### 3. What skills is my child learning to graduate ready for a local, high demand career?

*Schools should focus on high-demand skills to ensure students are equipped to secure a local job and succeed after graduation.*

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### 4. What career technical education or work based learning programs are available? Are any in partnership with local businesses or industries to help them secure a job after graduation?

*These programs provide hands-on experience and skills that prepare students for future careers or further education. Partnerships can give them a head start in career readiness and provide networking opportunities with local employers.*

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### 5. Do we partner with any local universities to start earning credits now and create a pathway to a degree?

*Dual credit or early college programs help students save time and money while working toward a degree and gaining college-level experience to ultimately succeed in their future careers.*

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## HIGH QUALITY TEACHERS & INSTRUCTION

### 6. What is the school's performance compared to the rest of the state? How do you plan to continue improving?

*Comparing performance helps schools identify benchmarks, strengths and opportunities for growth. Clear improvement plans are crucial for performance acceleration and achievement. Without a concrete plan, nothing will change.*

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**7. How are you making sure top teachers stay at our school? Are we participating in any incentive programs for our top teachers like the Teacher or Principal Incentive Allotments (TIA, PIA)?**

*Retaining excellent teachers creates a stable and high-quality learning environment for your child. It is important that schools are actively working to not only attract, but retain the best teachers.*

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**8. Are we participating in any training or professional development programs to make sure our teachers can provide high-quality instruction?**

*Continuous professional development keeps teachers up to date with the most effective teaching strategies so that students continue to receive the best instruction.*

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**9. Do we use a model to speed up student learning like IB, Collegiate, or STEM?**

*Continuous professional development keeps teachers up to date with the most effective teaching strategies so that students continue to receive the best instruction.*

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## **HIGH QUALITY TEACHERS & INSTRUCTION**

**10. Do all facilities have the proper monitoring, access control, and emergency preparedness to keep my student safe?**

*Students, families and teachers deserve safe learning environments. Ensuring effective safety measures and protocols are in place protects students and teachers, allows for improved learning, and provides peace of mind for families.*

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