



# 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!

## 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.

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.

## READING

### 1. Is my child reading at grade level? If yes, how can we stay on grade level? If not, 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. Has my child's teacher received training on structured literacy programs and are they using them in the classroom?

*Structured literacy programs ensure students of all levels and abilities learn to read and write proficiently by combining proven effective systems of teaching reading with the science of what happens in the brain as we learn to read. The program's structure also identifies struggling students before they fall behind and provides the necessary resources and steps to help them stay on pace.*

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**3. 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 or identify a need for additional support.*

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**4. Does my child qualify for the state's free summer reading program or free tutoring program? How do we apply?**

*Programs like Summer Reading Program can provide additional support to help students improve their reading skills outside of the classroom.*

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## MATH

**5. Are my child's math skills at grade level? If yes, how can we stay on grade level? If no, how can we catch up this year?**

*Keeping track of your child's math skills makes sure they build a strong foundation for advanced learning and critical thinking in math and other subjects and identifies if they are struggling before they fall behind. 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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**6. What math skills my child is expected to learn this year?**

*Being aware of the curriculum helps you understand what your child is learning and how to support their learning at home with homework or extra practice.*

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## CAREER PREPARATION [FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS]

### **7. What career technical education or work based learning programs are available to my child?**

*These programs provide hands-on experience and skills that prepare students for future careers or further education. Common programs in New Mexico include internships with local industry or business, connections to work, and career skill courses.*

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### **8. 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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## HIGH QUALITY TEACHERS

### **9. How are you making sure top teachers stay at our school?**

*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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### **10. What training does my child's teacher get on the latest research-based teaching methods?**

*Continuous training on research-based methods ensures teachers are consistently using the most effective strategies to support your child's success. This should include training in structured literacy programs.*

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