

## How can I be involved with my child's school?

While home involvement is most important, your involvement with the school is also critical to your child's success. How can you get more involved with your child's school life? There are a number of ways:

- ✓ Join the parent-teacher association.
- ✓ Attend open houses and back-to-school nights.
- ✓ Read the school newsletters.
- ✓ Participate in after-school events.
- ✓ Get to know your child's teachers.
- ✓ Support your child in school activities.
- ✓ Volunteer to assist with school functions and extracurricular activities.

Visit your child's school frequently. Call and make an appointment to talk to your child's counselors and teachers. By visiting the school you can discover:

- ✓ How your child is doing on class work.
- ✓ How your child interacts with others.
- ✓ If the teacher is having disciplinary problems with your child.
- ✓ What activities you can do at home to help your child in school.

**YOU are the biggest influence in your child's life.....use that influence to put your child on the pathway to success!**

## What if my teen doesn't want me involved at school?

Parent involvement at school sometimes decreases in the middle and high school years. Maturing teens have a need to develop a sense of independence; however, it is important to remember that you, as a parent, still have a strong influence on your teenager's life. Remain involved at home and continue to provide support as your child approaches adolescence:

- ✓ Keep the lines of communication open. Supply your child with honest, accurate information on the many issues teens face.
- ✓ Set fair and consistent rules. Work with your child to set appropriate limits. Be sure your child understands the purpose behind the rules.
- ✓ Support your child's future. Continue to show that education is important.
- ✓ Set a good example. Show concern for, and be involved in, the school and the community.
- ✓ Create time for your family to do activities together.

For more information:

Visit the Dept. of Education website for Parents at [www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml](http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml)

Junior Achievement at [www.ja.org](http://www.ja.org)

This brochure was originally prepared by America's Career Resource Network (ACRN)

[www.acrnetwork.org](http://www.acrnetwork.org)



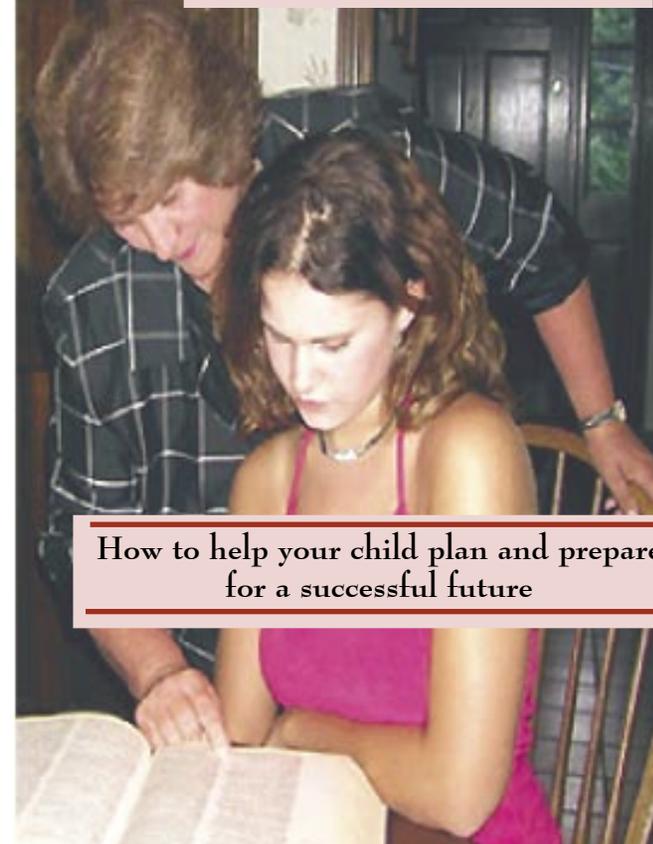
Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

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4/07 MDF

## Want your child to make successful career decisions?

Parent Involvement =  
Student Success



How to help your child plan and prepare for a successful future

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training  
Labor Market Information Unit

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## Why should you be involved with your child's education?

Research shows that parent support is more important to school success than a student's IQ, economic status or school setting. Parents influence everything from their child's reading level to test scores. There are many ways to be involved both at home and in the school. And the benefits of parental involvement are overwhelming. They include:

- ✓ Higher grades and test scores
- ✓ Better behavior and more positive attitudes
- ✓ Higher graduation rates
- ✓ Better attendance at school
- ✓ More homework completed
- ✓ Fewer placements in special education
- ✓ Greater enrollment in postsecondary education

### EXPECT SUCCESS!



Set high expectations for your child's school performance and your child will be more likely to meet those expectations. Help your child set reasonable goals and work toward them. Tell your child that you believe in his or her abilities and that is why you expect success.

## What are the best ways to be involved?

Parental involvement begins at home with you and your children. By creating a positive home environment and encouraging communication, you are stimulating the learning process.

Some simple ways to encourage learning are:



### 1. Encourage Reading and Writing

Studies show that children who read at home perform better in school. Keep books, magazines, and newspapers in your home. Take your child to the library and help him or her get their own library card. Discuss what your child reads. Read to your child.

Encourage your child to write notes to their friends and relatives. Have your child keep a journal.

### 2. Make School Important; Make it a Priority

The first step to your child's school success is for you to be supportive of school and education. If school is not important to you, it will not be important to your child. You can show your child that school is important by:

- ✓ Speaking positively about your child's teachers and counselors
- ✓ Talking to your child about the benefits of education
- ✓ Making sure your child goes to school on time every day
- ✓ Attending school functions, including parent-teacher conferences and open houses
- ✓ Answering phone calls and notes from your child's teacher

## What can I do at home to help my child succeed?

There are many ways to be involved in your child's school success in the comfort of your own home.

Make sure your child has a good breakfast and arrives at school well-rested. This helps your child stay alert and engaged.

Help your child start and stay in a routine for completing homework by setting a regular time and providing a quiet place to complete assignments.

Ask your child what he or she learns in school each day.

Limit the amount of time your child watches television or plays computer/video games. Monitor what they watch and play.

Praise and encourage your child often.

Celebrate your child's successes. Everyone has strengths, so help your child focus on the things he or she does well.

### MAKE TIME COUNT!



Staying involved with your child helps build self esteem, which in turn aids your child's school success.

Use car time to talk with your child. Turn off the radio.

Plan to eat at least one meal together as a family each day.

Look for things to do together as a family.

*78% of junior high students and 48% of high school students want their parents to talk to them more about school.*