



What can I do to make sure my child succeeds in mathematics and will be able to take challenging math courses in the future?

Get involved!

Research shows that parents' attitudes toward their children's education, and their involvement in it, have a significant impact on children's success in school.

The mathematics your child learns, especially in middle and high school, can play a major role in determining his or her future education and career opportunities. It's important for you to know what the long-range plan is for your child's math classes and whether he or she is getting the same opportunities in math as everyone else. Make sure that doors aren't closing because your child isn't learning the math that will open them.

Get to know your child's math teacher and the school guidance counselor. Be sure to attend Back-to-School Night, parent-teacher conferences, and other scheduled events to ask questions and find out more about your child's math program and how he or she is doing.

Questions to ask your child's mathematics teacher

- What math will be taught in this class? How can I find out what my child is learning?
- What textbook and other materials will you use?
- Will my child need a calculator, ruler, compass, or other tools?
- How much math homework can my child expect to have, and how long should he or she spend on homework each night?
- May my child work with other students on homework?
- How can my child make up work when he or she misses school?
- How does my child earn grades in your class?
- Will my child's grades be sent home?
- Will you send home a report about how my child is doing in your class?



When and how often?

- Can I schedule a conference with you about my child's progress? How?
- Will my child take any state or national tests this year?
- What can I do to help you?

Questions to ask the teacher, counselor, or both about what mathematics is taught in your child's class

- What mathematics classes are available?
- Do all students take the same mathematics courses?
- How are students placed in different classes? When are placements made for next year?
- Can I offer input to help make decisions about what course my child will take?
- What math course will my child take after this class?
- Will this math course prepare my child to take more math?
- When are schedules for the different classes made for next school year?
- How can I help make decisions about what course my child takes?
- Will my child use calculators or computers in mathematics classes? Are these tools available for all students? How are they used?
- Will I be informed if my child is having trouble? When, and how? What should I do then?
- Does the school offer any programs for extra help with math if my child needs it? Is any tutoring available before, during, or after school?
- What kinds of extra activities does the school make available in math? Is there a math club? Do some students participate in mathematics competitions?

Don't be afraid to ask for what your child needs. You'll find that teachers and counselors are happy to answer your questions and will appreciate your involvement and support.

Also consider arranging a regular time for your child to work on math with a peer or group of students. Working with others can help students who are struggling as well as those who excel.