Dear Parent or Family Member:

Denver Public Schools is committed to ensuring that every child succeeds. This means that every student has the tools needed to reach hi or her full potential. We know how important you are in helping us achieve that goal. This is why the Office of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) created this tool with tips to help you guide your children from birth to success.

This poster is an easy way to help you prepare your children for college and career, foster learning during attitudes at home, and how to tell if your child is on track to succeed during school and beyond.

We encourage you to hang this poster in your home and talk with your children about college and career and let them know the importance of education. Research shows that students are more successful in school and life when their families are involved.

We would also appreciate your help in sharing the information with other families. If you’re interested in helping other parents learn how to support their children’s success, please contact us at 303.438.3534 to sign up for a free workshop.

In addition to this initiative, FACE engages parents, families and the community to ensure the success of every child. One of our goals is to help parents and families strengthen their role as academic and character-building partners in our children education by:

• Promoting dialogue between parents/community members and schools to support school improvement.

• Providing training to support parents and families to communicate effectively with school staff.

• Providing training and support systems to school leaders to help them engage their parents and families.

• Providing extra support for students in the areas of attendance, math, reading and writing.

• Creating partnerships between schools and the community to add resources to positively impact student achievement.

We believe it takes a village to help every child succeed. Thank you for your partnership!

Superintendent

Tom Boasberg
Chief Family & Community Engagement

When I grow up I want to...

Be a scientist.

Your Involvement Matters

Academic Standards

Denver Public Schools has embraced the Colorado Academic and Common Core State Standards to ensure students are equipped for college and careers in the 21st century.

Denver Public Schools has developed a series of college readiness targets that extend from kindergarten through 12th grade.

How do I know if my child is on track to graduate?

RESOURCES

When I grow up I want to...

Mile High United Way’s 2-1-1 is a free, multilingual service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and refers callers to non-emergency health and human services. If you need help you can access referrals to:

FOOD • EMERGENCY SHELTER • AFFORDABLE HOUSING • MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES • MENTAL HEALTH • LICENSED CHILD CARE • YOUTH MENTORING • JOB TRAINING • MUCH MORE.

Just dial three simple numbers: 2-1-1 or call 303.561.2111 or find 2-1-1 on the web: UnitedWayDenver.org/211

Visit milehighunitedway.org for information about:

• Health Clinics

• Transportation

• Choice and Enrollment Services

• Volunteering and Donations

• English Language Acquisition

• Extended Learning

• Multicultural Outreach

• Early Childhood Education

• Parent Portal

For additional parent resources visit: face.dpsk12.org

Make Success a Reality

For your children.

Kids have dreams.

Let’s walk with them on the path to fulfilling them.

Practical Strategies to Prepare our Kids for College & Career

When I grow up I want to...

help people. Invent something. Be a chef. Make the world safe. Learn to fly.

Denver Health’s School-Based Health Centers provide health care services to all Denver Public School students free of charge. Each clinic is staffed by pediatric experts who provide injury and illness care, mental health counseling, immunizations, and a number of other medical services.

Children who are enrolled in school are more likely to enroll in college after high school. Students who pass an AP test are more likely to enroll in college.

We recognize the importance of being YOUR CHILD’S ADVOCATE. We have knowledgeable parent portal • early childhood • extended learning • multicultural outreach • early childhood education • parent portal.

Practice communication skills by talking with your child about their day, practice critical thinking by asking your child to explain their answers, and practice financial planning by helping your child learn to create a budget.

Be a chef. Make the world safe.

your involvement and attendance matter. With your support, we are confident that every student has the tools needed to reach his or her full potential. We know that every student has the tools needed to reach hi or her full potential. We know how important you are in helping us achieve that goal. This is why the Office of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) created this tool with tips to help you guide your children from birth to success.

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**Birth to 3 years**

**AT THIS STAGE...**
- Your child is learning about trust and security. He needs to know he’s safe, loved, and cared for. A stable environment will lay the foundation for healthy relationships in the future.
- Your child’s brain is developing rapidly. Proper nutrition, sleep, healthcare, and stimulation now will make her a better learner later.
- Long before he says his first word, your child is learning language. What he learns now will help him to read and interact with others in the future.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**
- Read with your child. Sing songs. Tell stories. Look at pictures and let your child tell you about them.
- Talk to your child throughout the day in your native language. Use complete sentences, and call things by their name.
- Make sure your child feels loved. Hold her. Show her affection.
- Provide a safe home. Remain calm when your child is acting out. Walk away or count to 10 if you have to. Never shake a baby!
- Explore the world! Go to museums, the zoo, libraries, and cultural events.
- Think ahead. Look into high-quality Early Childhood Education Programs in your area. Start a college savings account.

**Preschool**

**AT THIS STAGE...**
- Your child is an explorer! She runs, climbs, and physically experiences her world.
- Conversation and social skills begin to develop. Being around other kids helps your child start to understand other people's feelings and control his own.
- Your child is learning to take turns and follow instructions.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**
- Read with your child every day. Use books as a starting point for talking about careers and role models and his dreams for the future.
- Talk to your child throughout the day in your native language, introducing new words and ideas. Help your child use words to express feelings.
- Kids need to know rules. Clearly set rules, and let your kids know what will happen if they break them. Establish routines. Be consistent and positive.
- Look for the good. Give specific feedback as you celebrate accomplishments and good choices.
- Make health a priority. Provide nutritious food, schedule annual physicals and enjoy physical activities together.
- Help your child succeed in school. Start building the habit of good attendance now.

**Elementary**

**AT THIS STAGE...**
- Your child is beginning to master drawing, reading, writing, and math skills.
- Social and communication skills are continuing to develop. Kids can now express their feelings, recognize other people's feelings, and control their emotions.
- They need consistent guidance to make good choices and develop their sense of self.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**
- Continue to read with your child every day. Ask about friends, experiences, interests, and strengths. Talk about college and career often.
- Make sure your child is at school every day on time and ready to learn. Get to know your child's teachers, and support your child’s learning at home.
- Continue to praise your child, set clear expectations, offer choices, and model positive behavior and communication. Celebrate the positive and show unconditional love and affection.
- Help your child develop pride in her culture and background. Fill her world with role models of all cultures, including her own.
- Stay physically active, explore the outdoors, and prepare healthy meals together.

**Middle school**

**AT THIS STAGE...**
- Kids are changing fast. This stage, with its physical, emotional, and social development, can be confusing and frightening.
- They are learning about who they are and becoming more independent. They need to be noticed and cared about as unique individuals.
- Kids’ sense of self is affected by peers, media, experiences and expectations.
- They begin to notice when their parents are being hypocritical—doing something that’s different than what they say.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**
- Make your child’s business your business. Talk about his interests, monitor his school progress and attendance. Get to know his friends.
- Keep reading. Find out what your child is interested in and check out library books on the subject to read together. Keep researching college and careers and make arrangements to visit a college with your child.
- Show your child that you take care of yourself, have a good self-image, and engage in healthy relationships so your child learns to do the same.
- Find positive outlets for your child’s energy—sports, school activities, and community service projects.

**High school**

**AT THIS STAGE...**
- Teenagers are transitioning into the adult world with more responsibilities.
- They want more freedom and unsupervised time with friends. They identify with their peers—for good or bad. With the wrong influences, they may be vulnerable to substance abuse, gang activities, and early sexual experiences.
- Teenagers need strong adult support and positive peers to develop healthy, mutually respectful relationships.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**
- Find out about graduation requirements, discuss your teenager’s Personal Educational Plan (PEP) with her counselor. Encourage her to take rigorous courses like AVID, Advanced Placement and Concurrent Enrollment. Set goals with your teenager to make sure she succeeds.
- Encourage your teenager to read for pleasure. Talk about world events and challenge him to think critically.
- Find the good in the independent streak. Encourage your teenager to be a leader and make good choices. Follow through on appropriate consequences for poor choices.
- Develop a plan for what to do if she finds herself in an unsafe situation. Make sure she knows she is loved, accepted and safe with you.