

How to Advocate for Your Child and Yourself in School

What Is Advocacy?

Advocating for your child means speaking up and taking action to support their needs and rights. It also involves pushing for changes in school practices and decisions, not just for your child, but for other multilingual students and families as well. Advocacy is about using your voice to help create positive change in education and in the school community as a whole. As your child grows, it's important they see you advocating for them—so that they can learn how to advocate for themselves when the time comes.

Why Is It Important That Families Advocate for Their Children?

- It improves communication and collaboration between home and school.
- It ensures students receive the support they need.
- It strengthens confidence and leadership in students and their families.
- It promotes a learning environment in which all students have access to meaningful educational opportunities.

How Can You Actively Advocate for Your Child and Yourself?

Build relationships:

- Get to know your child's teachers, counselors and school principal.
- Connect with other parents to support one another.

Take action quickly:

- Share your concerns right away.
- Don't wait for issues to grow bigger.

Get involved at school:

- Collaborate with teachers and your child to set goals for the school year and find solutions to issues that arise.
- Participate in school meetings and events as you're able. Suggest other ways you'd like to be involved.
- Maintain communication with teachers and school staff and stay engaged in your child's learning.

Other Ideas:

- What other thoughts do you have on the importance of advocacy and the ways you can advocate for both your child and yourself?