

WHAT DOES EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY LOOK LIKE?

What is an advocate?

- An advocate is one who supports the interests of another. A parent can be their child's best advocate. When advocating for your child, consider using this three-step approach to help reach a resolution and positive outcome for your child.

3 steps I can take to effectively advocate for my child

Ask yourself these questions:

- Is this the right person to help me in this situation? Will my approach motivate and encourage the person to cooperate?
- What would help him/her improve? What do I want the person to do for my child or me?
- What can I do to partner with staff to help my child?



What do effective advocates know?

- General and current information about their child's progress in class
- How to communicate in a way that can bring about desired results
- The person they can connect to get information
- Their rights and responsibilities
- The services and resources available and the policies that govern those services

When should I advocate for my child?

- When you have concerns about your child's education that have not been addressed
- When you recognize gaps in services that may hinder your child's ability to learn

How do I know when I need partnership support?

- When you are unsure about roles and responsibilities
- When there are gaps in your understanding of policies and procedures
- When you do not feel that you have been understood



STEPS TO EFFECTIVELY ADVOCATE FOR MY CHILD

Approach the right person in a professional manner

- Whom can I contact to help me come up with effective solutions?
- Who will reinforce the solution when an agreement is made?
- What approach will best help motivate and encourage the person to cooperate?

Clearly identify what you need

- What does my child need that he/she is not getting?
- What do I want the person to do for my child?
- What will I do to support my child's success?

Be prepared to discuss options that can help you come to a mutually agreeable resolution

- How can we address concerns about my child's performance in the future?
- What can we do as partners to raise his/her performance?
- What resources and policies are in place to help me resolve my concerns?

