

# A-B-C SCHOOL AND FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS



## A - Attendance

### School Initiated

- Have teachers share attendance data with families at conferences and provide tips to support student attendance.
- Emphasize early warning and intensive intervention — every absence requires a response by an adult in the building.
- Review attendance policies to remove consequences that compete with school completion (e.g. suspension given for tardiness).
- Focus attendance programs on prevention as well as intervention and consequences.
- Include both incentives and sanctions in an attendance program, including alternatives to court and rewards for improved and perfect attendance.

### Family Initiated

- Communicate attendance expectations to student and track attendance using report card.
- Communicate with teacher/counselor if attendance is a problem.
- Set limits on bedtime.
- Help your student maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties.
- Check on your student's attendance to make sure absences are not accumulating.
- Ask for help from school officials, afterschool programs, other parents, or community agencies if you are having trouble getting your student to school.

## B - Behavior

### School Initiated

- Hold grade level meeting with families to review child development, social-emotional behavior, and classroom expectations.
- Develop school environment that supports appropriate behavior.
- Emphasize the use of preventative (be proactive), teaching (model and practice), and reinforcement-based (acknowledge or reward) strategies to achieve effective behavior.
- Teach replacement behaviors.
- Analyze school problems — behavior, areas, periods, times, policies, procedures — that do not reinforce pro-social behavior.
- Match behavior interventions to areas of need.
- Help families understand adolescent development and support adolescents' health and mental health.
- Help students avoid high-risk behaviors.

### Family Initiated

- Share ideas for behavior strategies that work at home.
- Consensus and consistency between home and school can help the student know what to expect and to practice more positive behaviors.
- Talk to teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- Find out if your student feels engaged by his or her classes and feels safe from bullies or other threats.
- Make sure student is not missing class because of behavioral issues and school discipline policy.
- Stay on top of your student's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school while students without many friends can feel isolated.



## C - Course Performance

### School Initiated

- Connect lessons to student's background and knowledge.
- Share advice about how families can reinforce skills at home.
- Establish open lines of communication so that families can talk to the school about any homework concerns.
- Communicate with families about homework/classwork to help their student keep track of assignments and due dates.
- Highlight the importance of high expectations and suggest families talk with their students about the importance of school and provide encouragement.
- Use parent-teacher conferences to explain course requirements, grading criteria, credit accumulation, student progress, and how to help student improve.
- Hold grade level meetings to review the WV College- and Career-Readiness Standards and what the curriculum will look like.
- Make available to struggling or discouraged students activities such as debates, artistic and performance experiences, and service learning projects, with opportunities to participate linked to good attendance and course effort.
- Flag students who are having difficulty early on and provide age-appropriate curriculum.

### Family Initiated

- Be informed about what your student will learn at each grade level based on WV Standards.
- Build relationships with your student's teachers.
- Set high expectations for your student and help him or her reach them.
- Help your student learn more or seek help if needed in a subject area.
- Develop questions to ask at parent-teacher conferences.
  - » Is my student's work in this area satisfactory?
  - » How could it be better?
  - » Is my student on track?
  - » How can I help him or her at home?
- Understand the school's grading policy and what it takes to pass courses.
- Communicate expectations that student completes homework.
- Make sure student has required books and instructional materials.

