



Office of the Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs
UCLA Early Academic Outreach Program
Helping Your Child Succeed in School

In middle school, and especially in high school, students seek independence as they begin their journey into young adulthood. You may want to let them go to a certain extent so not to “crowd” their space and interfere with their development. Always bear in mind, though, that it’s this time when they need you the most. Here are some tips that will help your child succeed in school.

1. Actively display your interest in learning, and expect your child to do the same. Teach your child that education is a lifelong process that comes by way of formal education, social interactions, employment experiences, and civic activities. Stress becoming a lifelong learner.
2. Promote literacy. Read to your child regularly and, when appropriate, have your child read to you. Let them see you reading the newspaper, books, stories, etc. Reading will help your child enhance their vocabulary and writing skills. Promote writing skills further by encouraging your child to keep a journal where they express their ideas formally and informally.
3. Make sure that your child is eating, resting, sleeping, and exercising sufficiently so that they can tackle their schoolwork.
4. Help your child maintain an open and positive attitude towards life, the family, their studies, and their circle of peers. Get to know your child’s friends and their parents so that you are always informed on the type of influences surrounding your child.
5. Visit places outside school where you and your child can learn and explore, such as libraries, museums, the zoo, community centers, and colleges and universities.
6. Attend meetings hosted by college preparatory outreach programs, the school PTA, and other community or college-sponsored events.
7. Do not let summers slip away. These are the best times to have your child take additional academic courses and participate in academic enrichment and extracurricular activities.
8. Let your child know that school is their job. Make sure that they understand expectations and rules, and have them set a study routine. At home, minimize distractions for your child and keep a well lit area that is comfortable for them to read, write, think, and do their homework.
9. Recognize your child’s unique abilities. Talk to them, listen to them and avoid comparing them to other children. Help your child identify how they learn best. Do they learn best through visual aids, auditory means, hands-on activities, or through a combination of two or three of these methods?
10. Periodically ask your child about school and what type of activities the school has to offer. Encourage their participation in clubs, leadership, sports, music, dance, and theater.
11. Maintain relationships with your child’s teachers and counselors. This will help you know how they’re doing in class. Find out which areas they’re strong in (science, reading, etc.) and which ones they need to improve (writing, math, etc.)
12. Ask the counselors to place your child in Honors and Advanced Placement classes. These classes will strengthen their academic record, their skills, and help them become competitive when they apply to college.
13. The time to get your child a tutor is when he/she is receiving a “B” in class, not a “D” or “F”. Tutoring is academic enrichment and doesn’t always have to be a remedial support system. There are free tutoring classes available at the school as well as in various libraries and community agencies such as the Boys and Girls Club, churches, etc.
14. Don’t forget to always congratulate your child when they try hard and do a good job. Your words of praise will empower them and stay with them for a long time.

Important Notes and Helpful Resources

Should everyone go to college?

- Every student should have the opportunity to go if he/she chooses to go.
 - Higher Education is not a right it is a privilege.
 - The objective of a college preparatory program is to help students who aspire to go to college to prepare to the highest level possible so that they can have many options to choose where they would like to go to college, rather than having it chosen for them because of lack of preparation.
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- Why a college prep curriculum even if students don't choose college?
 - ⇒ Courses develop life skills
 - Reading skills
 - Writing skills
 - Analytical skills
 - Critical Thinking and Reasoning
 - Problem solving
 - Communication skills

Helpful Websites

- www.greatschools.net
- www.pathways.ucop.edu/doorways/list/index.htm
- www.collegeboard.com
- www.actstudent.org/index.html
- www.fafsa.ed.gov
- www.calgrants.org
- www.cde.ca.gov
- www.edpubs.org/
- www.californiacolleges.edu
- Visit your school's website often

College Systems Contact Information

- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (916) 445-8752 www.cccco.edu
- CSU Office of the Chancellor (562) 951-4000 www.calstate.edu
- UC Office of the President (510) 987-0700 www.ucop.edu
- Association of Independent California Colleges & Universities (916) 446-7626
www.aiccu.edu