



What Parents Can Do

The Seven Keys to College Readiness are building blocks for your child's success. You can help your child along the pathway to college by monitoring the Keys in kindergarten through high school. Teachers and administrators at your child's school can answer questions you may have about the Keys. In addition, you can contact the [Office of Communications and Family Outreach](#) at 301-279-3100 to find support and resources for strengthening your advocacy skills.

Below are some actions you can take to stay involved with your child's education:

Talk to your child about college and the Seven Keys.

Discuss the "What Students Should Do" ([See page 4 of the Seven Keys brochure](#)), and support and praise your child's efforts to succeed.

Talk to your child's teachers.

Making the best decisions for your child should be a team effort. Listen to what the teachers say and also express your thoughts and concerns. Remember that you have a voice in decisions that affect your child.

Monitor your child's performance regularly.

Quarterly report cards summarize your child's performance. If your child is in middle or high school, [use Edline to monitor grades and assignments](#). Speak with teachers anytime you have questions about your child's performance.

Ask questions.

See below for [some questions you may want to ask your child's teachers](#).

Meet with a school counselor.

You will be able to stay informed about what courses your child should take each year to be on the path for achieving the Keys.

Encourage your child to use available resources.

Schools offer extra help, homework clubs, and other assistance. MCPS offers online assistance such as [The Math Dude for algebra](#) and [SAT preparation courses](#). Your child's teachers and counselors can suggest resources that best meet your child's needs.

Take advantage of resources for parents.

Principals provide information at meetings and through newsletters. MCPS offers [Parent Academy workshops](#) on the Seven Keys and other important topics.



Questions to Ask Your Child's Teacher

These are questions you can ask your child's teachers to better understand how he or she is doing in school, as well as his or her progress toward achieving the Seven Keys.

Is my child reading at grade level?

Can you show me books that are the right level of difficulty for my child and recommend books that he or she might enjoy?

How is my child doing in math?

If my child is in a grade-level or advanced math course, does he or she have the opportunity to take the challenge items on the end-of-unit assessments? Are there areas that need improvement? How can I help my child at home?

Does my child have the opportunity to do work above his or her grade level?

What are the requirements for doing well in your class, and how do you assess students' work?

Can you show me examples of high-quality student work?

How much time should my child be spending on homework?

Aside from report cards, what are the best ways to keep up to date on my child's progress?

If your child is struggling to achieve one or more Keys:

What support can the school offer my child? What can I do at home to help my child do better in school?

If your child is achieving the Keys:

What extra enrichment or support might benefit my child?