

DEALING WITH SCHOOL ISSUES

MARCH 2016 RESOURCE SHARING

As a parent, you are an expert when it comes to understanding your child. You may, however, appreciate assistance in determining how to help your child succeed in school.

What is the first step to effective communication with your child's school?

Start closest to the child—Discuss your concerns about your child's learning with your child's teacher, followed by the counselor, and/or the principal.

- **Start the conversation with what you know:**
 - ◇ My child is having difficulty in school...
 - ◇ I am concerned about my child's ability to make friends...
 - ◇ I am worried about my child's ability to succeed in school next year...
- **Ask questions:**
 - ◇ Does the school staff see some of the same issues?
 - ◇ What progress is my child making toward learning?
- **Discuss options:**
 - ◇ Share your proposed solution(s) to the problem.
 - ◇ Work with school staff to determine the next step.
 - ◇ Work collaboratively to meet the needs of your child.

Additional Information

The Bureau of Special Education also publishes a *Pennsylvania Parent Guide to Special Education for School Age Children*, which provides an overview of the special education process. Visit www.pattan.net for the Guide, special education forms, and other useful information, or call 800-360-7282 (Harrisburg).

Regional Advocacy Organization for Eastern and South Central Pennsylvania:

Parent Education Network (PEN)

717-600-0100 (V/TTY)

800-522-8527 (V/TTY)

800-441-5028 (Spanish in PA)

www.parentednet.org

To get more information about your rights or how to resolve disputes with your school district, including how to request a hearing, contact the Bureau of Special Education's ConsultLine at 800-879-2301.