

THE OPPORTUNITY MYTH

Action Guide: Parents and Families



As a parent or family member, you have the opportunity to be an invaluable partner in shaping your child's school experiences. You have the right to know what's happening in your child's classroom and school, and to raise questions and concerns.

This is not a checklist. Rather, it is a collection of tools and resources to support productive conversations with your child's teachers and school leaders, and to advocate for improvements in students' school experiences like those discussed in *The Opportunity Myth*:

Share your child's academic or career goals with their teachers, both for the school year and for the long-term.

Share feedback about your child's school experiences, both positive and negative, with your child's teachers and school leaders. Work with your child's school to ensure they act on the feedback you and your child have shared.

Ask your child about what they're learning in school and check out the assignments they bring home.

Familiarize yourself with the kinds of assignments you should expect at your child's grade level, and check to see if they seem to be experiencing grade-level content. Learning Heroes' [Readiness Roadmap](#) is a good resource, as is our [student work library](#). For parents who speak Spanish, Univision's [Clave al Éxito](#) will be a useful resource as well.

Ask your child's teachers and school leaders about how their current schoolwork will prepare them to reach their academic and career goals. Does your child have a chance to think deeply in their classes? To solve problems creatively? To read high-quality texts (or listen to them before they are able to read independently), and analyze them in conversation and writing? Talk to their

teachers if you think your child should be doing more of the thinking in their classroom.

Ask your child's teachers and school leaders directly whether your child will be college and career ready when they graduate, based on their performance

in class today. Is your child on grade level? Request that your child's school answers that question directly and provides accessible information about whether your child is meeting grade-level standards for college readiness. If report cards don't directly answer that question, ask that they be redesigned to include information about college readiness. [This guide](#) can help you prepare for a meeting with your child's teachers.

Share your concerns with the principal of your child's school or your local school board if your child isn't receiving high-quality schoolwork or you aren't able to access clear information about whether your child is on grade level. Organize with your local Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) or Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) or other parent forums to demand high-quality experiences for your students. This [form language](#) can provide a starting point for addressing concerns with your child's principal or school board.