STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Supervises all school districts and is run by a state superintendent.

- Implements state-level decisions such as standards, funding, etc.
- Contact the state Department of education if you have issues that can’t be resolved locally.

EDUCATION

- Helps teachers and students in class, children with special needs, and provide other types of assistance and support.
- Other helpful school staff are secretaries, custodians, food service workers, bus drivers, and security guards.

SCHOOL BOARD

- The school board, elected or appointed, supervises the whole school district office and is run by elected or appointed school board members.
- Contact the school district office if you have issues that the school board can’t resolve.

PARAPROFESSIONALS AND SCHOOL-RELATED PERSONNEL

- Help teachers and students in class, children with special needs, and provide other types of assistance and support.
- Other helpful school staff are secretaries, custodians, food service workers, bus drivers, and security guards.

TEACHERS’ UNION

- Represents members regarding salary, benefits, and working conditions, and educates members about the size, professional development and school safety.
- Provides information and programs in leadership and advocates for high-quality teachers, high standards, quality curriculum, etc.

A Note on Web Sites and Resources

The Web sites listed can help you and your child find resources for school or for fun. If you don’t have a computer at home, remember you can use computers at the public library. If you need help, ask the librarian for assistance finding these Web sites or books on these and other topics.

FOR MORE HELP WITH READING:

- National Institute for Literacy and Partnership for Reading: www.nifl.gov and www.nifl.gov/partnershipforreading
- Reading Rockets: www.readingrockets.org/
- PBS Kids and Children’s Television Workshop’s Sesame Street: www.pbs.org/kidsguides

FOR MORE HELP WITH MATH:

- Council on Competitiveness’ Getmathier.org: www.getmathier.org
- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics’ Family Corner and Figure This: www.nctm.org/resources/families.aspx and www.figurethis.org

FOR MORE HELP WITH SCIENCE:

- National Science Foundation: www.nsf.gov/news/lastnews/everest
- Newton’s Apple: www.kctc.org/newton/
- KidSpace@The Internet Public Library, Science Fair Project Resource Guide: www.ift.org/igt/projectguide/
- Bill Nye, the Science Guy: www.billnye.com

FOR MORE HELP WITH SOCIAL STUDIES:

- The National Council for the Social Studies: www.ncss.org/
- Center for Civic Education: www.civiced.org
- Civvet/Civitas International: www.civnet.org
- The Close Up Foundation: www.closeup.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

- U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services: www.idea-partnership.org
- American Federation of Teachers: www.aft.org/fixnclb/
- IDEA Partnership: www.ideapartnership.org

The School System

Besides your child’s teacher, many other people are involved in your child’s education.

- The more you know about them, the more you can help your child.

TEACHERS

- Are the first people you should go to with a concern about your child.
- Talk to teachers about your child the more they know the more they can help.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE

- Supervises all schools in a district and is run by a superintendent.
- Implements decisions made by the school board.
- Contact the district office if you have issues that the school board can’t resolve.

PRINCIPALS

- Are responsible for supervising the whole school and helping teachers and staff do a better job.
- Speak to principals about issues that teachers can’t resolve.

LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN!

A Union of Professionals

American Federation of Teachers, AFT
555 New Jersey Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
202/879-6400
www.aft.org

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

- For a Union of Professionals materials, call 1-800-343-7900.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ACT

- American Federation of Teachers: www.aft.org/fixnclb/
- IDEA Partnership: www.ideapartnership.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON Vocational and Adult Education

- National Vocational Education Leadership Association: www.nvela.org
- The Association for Career and Technical Education: www.acteonline.org
- Vocational Programs: www.vacation.com/vocational-programs

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON Education

- Bill Nye, the Science Guy: www.nsf.gov/news/classroom/
- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics: www.nctm.org/resources/families.aspx
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- Contact the district office if you have issues that the school can't resolve.

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- Are responsible for supervising the whole school and helping teachers and staff do a better job.
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SCHOOL BOARD
- Decides how the local school district will operate and is run by elected or appointed school board members.
- Makes decisions about facilities, money for schools, staff, programs, etc.
- Contact the board if you have issues that the school or school district office can't resolve.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
- www.aft.org/fixnclb/
- www.nochildleftbehind.gov/
- www.aft.org/fixnclb/

Pathways to Success

As a parent, you want the best for your children. The American Federation of Teachers shares your expectations and knows you can make a big difference in your child's education.

Inside this brochure you will find helpful information on:
- How the School System Works
- School Issues and Program Information
- Tips on How to Help Your Child Succeed in School

Let the Journey Begin!

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FOR MORE HELP WITH READING:
- National Institute for Literacy and Partnership for Reading: www.nifl.gov/partnershipforreading/
- National Center for the Improvement of Literacy: www.nationalcenter4literacy.org

FOR MORE HELP WITH WRITING:
- National Institute for Literacy and Partnership for Reading: www.nifl.gov/partnershipforreading/
- National Writing Project: www.nwp.org

FOR MORE HELP WITH MATH:
- Council on Competitiveness' Getmathier.org: www.getmathier.org
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- The Close Up Foundation: www.closeup.org

AFT GUIDE FOR PARENTS

American Federation of Teachers, AFT 555 New Jersey Ave. N.W. Washington, DC 20001 202/872-6680 www.aft.org

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**Parents and Teachers**

**The School System**

**Starting Out Right—Journey Begin!**

**Let the Journey Begin**

**Are You Ready To Help Your Child Succeed?**

**The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)**

**Vocational Programs**

- Students in these programs explore different career areas and receive hands-on training.
- The goal is to prepare students for higher education or work in fields like technology, healthcare, and manufacturing.

**College Preparatory Programs**

- Most programs are categorized as College Track, College Magnet Programs, and Advanced Placement (AP).
- The goal is to prepare students for higher education at a four-year college or university.

**English Language Learners**

- Schools are required to help children who don’t speak English learn English in addition to studying the same material as other students in school.

**Students with Disabilities**

- Children with disabilities are required to attend school with appropriate public education and its routines and classes in the “least restrictive environment.”
- A parent of the student may request that his or her child be evaluated. Parents must be informed of this.
- Information provided by parents is used in the child’s Individual Education Plan (IEP).

**Academic Standards and Tests**

- Academic standards should be clear and specific, about what all students are expected to know and be able to do at each grade level.
- Academic tests should be based on the standards.

**Questions to Ask:**

- What are the specific skills and subjects my child will be learning?
- What are my child’s strengths and weaknesses?

**For More Information Contact:**


**Academic Tests**

- National Education for All Children and Youth:

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**Questions to Ask:**

- How does my child’s disability affect his or her education?
- What can I and the school do to help my child more?

**For More Information Contact:**

- Family and Advocates Partnership for Education: www.fape.org
- IDEA Partnership: www.ideapartnership.org

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