# WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



## WHY SHOULD WE FOCUS ON ACHIEVEMENT?

- ✓ Grade level achievement is critical to long-term success in college, work, and life.
- ✓ Parents play a critical role in helping their child to make satisfactory progress.
- ✓ Students especially depend upon their parents for ensuring their learning needs are met in and out of school and for monitoring their homework.

### **HOW IS ACHIEVEMENT CONNECTED TO SUCCESS?**

- ✓ Reading proficiently by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is critical to students being able to read to learn in all of their subjects.
- ✓ A sixth grader who fails math or English, has an unsatisfactory behavior, or poor attendance has a 75% likelihood of dropping out.
- ✓ Freshmen in Chicago public schools who earn a B average or better have an 80% chance of finishing high school with at least a 3.0 GPA.

## **HELPING PARENTS**

### WHAT **SCHOOLS** CAN DO

**Inform** parents about what children are expected to learn and do at every grade level through school orientations as well as school newsletters.

**Hold** parent/teacher conferences to identify strengths and strategies for improving student success in school.

**Identify** non-traditional ways to connect with parents unable to attend regularly scheduled parent/teacher conferences.

**Communicate** regularly about children's progress, not just when problems arise.

**Send** home homework or learning assignments.

**Hold** family math and literacy workshops aimed at helping parents learn about what they can do at home to help children advance their skills.

## WHAT **COMMUNITY AGENCIES** CAN DO

**Partner** with schools to help parents understand what to expect in a high quality educational program and how to determine the best match for their child.

**Help** to identify positive solutions when conflicts arise between school staff and parents about how to promote a child's academic achievement.

**Assist** parents in identifying when their child might be at risk because of an undetected learning disability and/or they are disengaging from school.

**Partner** with schools to offer workshops on family math and literacy as well as other relevant parenting topics.

**Use** home visitors who reflect the cultural and linguistic background of families to help parents acquire skills to help their children at home.

**Create** lending libraries offering families access to learning materials that they can use at home.

### WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

**Think** about the kind of educational program your child needs to learn and thrive, and seek placement in those schools which meet his or her needs.

**Know** your child's teachers. Let teachers know that you want to be contacted immediately about any concerns.

**Attend** parent-teacher conferences and regularly seek out information about your child's progress.

**Request** a developmental assessment if a learning disability is suspected.

Watch for signs that your child might be at risk.

**Use** activities at home to develop their knowledge and skills, and utilize community resources (museums, libraries, youth centers) to create additional opportunities for learning.