

Tools for Educators

Over and over, we hear that parents demand accountability in the education of their children. Strong American Schools believes that that responsibility cuts both ways: As a teacher you have a right to ask your students' families to play a role in setting a high benchmark for their child's education.

Talk to Parents and Guardians

Don't wait for a formal Parent-Teacher night. Reach out to family members whenever you have an opportunity; at PTA and school board meetings, at school social or sports events, even via an old-fashioned letter. Whether it be praise or concerns, we think you'll find parents are happy to have help in navigating their child's education. In particular, let them know:

- If a student is performing at grade level in English, math and reading
- If a student is on track to complete his or her grade and – eventually – graduate high school
- What support options in the school and community are available if a child is falling behind
- What courses and requirements are needed for a child to be ready for collegiate academics – and what resources are available if they're not

Know the Playing Field

The education of American students doesn't happen in a vacuum. As you already know, many, many people have a vested interest in what's happening in your classroom. You need to know what they're saying, so stay up-to-date on the education debate happening on a national level and in your local district.

Here are some media sites that can help:

- [CNN Education Section](#)
- [LA Times Education Section](#)
- [New York Times Education Section](#)
- [Washington Post Education Section](#)
- [Roy's Blog on Schools](#)

Get Informed About Your Local School

Know how your school stacks up against others based on some standard criteria.

- [SchoolMatters.com](#)
- [GreatSchools.net](#)