

SCSB Parent Website:

<https://www.sumter.k12.fl.us/domain/125>

*Use this as your  
checklist for  
optimal parent  
involvement!*



What Families Can Do to Help Their Kids

# Get Involved

## Monitor & Encourage Attendance

Regular attendance is a critical factor in school success because students are more likely to succeed in academics when they attend school consistently. All students who have reached the age of six years or who will have reached the age of six years by February 1 until the age of sixteen years, are required to attend school regularly. Each parent of a child within the compulsory attendance age is responsible for their child's attendance as required by law. School district policy regarding excused and unexcused absences and truancy can be found on the Student Services Department website at

<https://www.sumter.k12.fl.us/domain/1367>



## Communicate!

*Communication leads to understanding.*

Reading and writing are built on a sea of talk: Talk to your child as often as possible. Talk about his/her day, hopes, goals, and interests.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences:** One of the best ways to find out how your child is doing in school is through parent-teacher conferences. Your child's teacher may request to schedule a conference; however, if you would like to speak to your child's teacher, you may call, write or e-mail the teacher to set one up. Please be flexible when scheduling a time. You will need to arrange to come to the school for the conference. Remember this is the opportunity for you to work with the teacher as a team. After the conference, follow up. Keep in touch. Talk to your child about the conference. Stress the positive things the teacher discussed and talk about suggestions for improvement.

**Websites:** There is a wealth of information on each school's website. Get in the habit of checking it regularly for school and district updates. You can also find your child's teacher's e-mail address on the school's website.

**E-mail:** The best way to stay in touch with your child's teacher or school administrator!

**Investigate:** Pay attention to what comes home in your child's backpack.

# Be informed and be proactive!

- ✓ Know what your child is learning: <https://www.sumter.k12.fl.us/Page/103>
- ✓ Know where your child can get help: <https://www.cpalms.org/Public/>
- ✓ Read to your child:  
<https://www.sumter.k12.fl.us/cms/lib/FL01903476/Centricity/Domain/1649/TIPA%20-%20Free%20Books%20Flier.pdf>
- ✓ Stay informed: Keep up with changes and what your children should be doing at the “Just for Parents” FLDOE website: <http://www.Fldoe.org/family/>

## Ten Ways for Parents to Engage

*For working parents, striking a balance between time at home and time away can be a struggle. In spite of challenges, there is a clear connection between parental involvement and positive outcomes for children. Research from Child Trends finds that "students with parents who are involved in their school tend to have fewer behavioral problems and better academic performance, and are more likely to complete high school than students whose parents are not involved in their school."*

*Communities In Schools (CIS) recognizes that parents sometimes need guidance in how to stay engaged. These top 10 ways to engage are among those offered by CIS site coordinators to parents who want to remain involved with their child's education.*

1. **Engage Teachers Early:** Whether it's parent orientation day, back to school night or summer classroom cleaning, find ways to meet the teachers and staff in your child's school early in the school year.
2. **Study School Policies:** Learn about your child's school policies, teachers and curriculum so you have a good understanding of how you can make a positive difference.
3. **Be Present:** Be a visible presence in your child's school and classroom. Introduce yourself to teachers, counselors and staff.
4. **Tell Teachers What's Working:** It's not just your child who wants to hear a job is "well done". Positive feedback is also important for your child's teachers so they know what's working well.
5. **Connect with Technology:** Emails, List-Servs, Texts and School Apps are additional ways to stay connected with your child's school. Sign up for what works for you and use it to obtain and share useful information about your child's progress
6. **Tag Team with Your Spouse:** If Mom is too busy, then Dad, Grandma or Aunt Jo can attend the science fair, report card meeting, student talent show or teacher appreciation night.
7. **Question Policies, Not People:** If you have a question, concern or complaint about a policy, make your conversation about that policy and not the people who are there to implement it.
8. **Visit and Volunteer:** Schools offer numerous ways for parents to be engaged including chances to volunteer, serve on school project committees, visit a classroom or chaperone field trips.
9. **Create School Community:** Reach out to fellow parents to share ideas about how to work together to improve the school experience for your children and their classmates.
10. **Ask Questions and Advocate:** Don't be afraid to ask tough, but fair questions and to advocate firmly but respectfully for your child.

