

Become an Effective Advocate for Your Concern

In Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools it is our belief and practice that we should work together, for the best win-win outcome with the student at the heart of every decision. This resource is designed with this in mind.

As advocates, information is power. Learning how to be an advocate is an important part of solving conflict, resolving issues, or finding solutions to problems and it doesn't have to be overwhelming. In the progression of reading this material, you will gain practical information to assist you in this process. Please use the following steps to assist your *concern*, for a supportive and positive experience.

Steps to effectively advocate your concern:

1. Be an Equal Partner

A positive interaction between family/parent/guardian/ and the school is always best for your child. All parties need to ensure the student comes first and the goal is for the best outcome for all students that maintains the learning culture.

- Make shared decisions with school and all involved
- Touch base often
- Share concerns in a friendly manner
- Always anticipate outcomes.

2. Be a Proactive Partner

Learn as much about the situation as possible. Sometimes our emotions can be high but they also need to be practical and manageable. Getting the answers to the questions may help avoid any sense of frustration.

- Ask good questions
- Include Your Child (your child's emotions and point of view is extremely important)
- Keep good records. (Keep a running diary/journal of all verbal and written dialogue. It can provide you with review type information)

3. Be a Positive Partner

Sometimes this is the most difficult step. To build a productive working team you must remain positive and build a two way trusting relationship; accountable to getting positive outcomes. Remember: anger, hostility, aggression and frustration will not be productive in ensuring the best solution for your concern.

- Remain Positive
- Think Positive
- Act Positive

