

## SCHOOL ADVOCACY

### **Suggestions for Promoting Advocacy at School for your Child:**

- Go to the school; give the registrar the court order (appointing you as a GAL) to photocopy and keep in the child's cumulative records; make an appointment to see the school's **Guidance Counselor**. (Often, you will be able to see him/her that same day.)
- Explain your role as a GAL and discuss highlights of the case about which you feel the school should be aware. Discuss any special needs you feel your child might have. Leave your contact information with the counselor so s/he can easily contact you, if needed.
- Leave a note with the counselor or in the office for your child's teacher(s), asking them to contact you by phone/email when it's convenient — especially if you see that your child is struggling with issues such as lack of attendance, behavior issues, poor grades, lack of effort, etc.

### **Elementary-Age Students (Grades K - 5):**

- Find out your child's lunch schedule, and if the school gives permission, arrange to have lunch with your child at school. (Most elementary schools have picnic tables on the grounds or in the hallways that you will want to use since the cafeteria is very noisy.) Bring a book or game to play with the child while you're having lunch together.
- Visit your child during After Care, shortly after school dismissal, and help him/her with homework.
- Find out about special projects that are assigned and offer to help your child with needed supplies and/or to work on the project over the weekend.

### **Middle and Senior High Students (Grades 6 - 12):**

- If your child is struggling in school, set up a conference that the child also attends with you, the counselor, and possibly other support personnel (such as the Special Ed Department Chairperson if the child has an Individualized Educational Plan—I.E.P.). Let the child know that these personnel will support them in school if they have a problem and need to talk, need school supplies, need a place to print if the assignment is done on a word processor, need money for a field trip, etc.
- Find out about special projects that are assigned and offer to help your child with needed supplies and/or to work on the project over the weekend.

### **M-DCPS Juvenile Justice Support Office:**

Located on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor (Suite 4341) of the new Children's Courthouse, you can meet with a District Court Liaison to get support, assistance, and consultation services for any of your school-age children who may need it. Following are just a few of the services they provide:

- **Providing you with current grades and/or attendance for your child.** You can request this in person when you're at the courthouse by filling out a form in Suite 4341 with the child's first and last name and his/her birth date OR you can ask your supervisor to make the request for you. (End of grading period occurs on: October 29, January 22, April 7, and June 9.)
- Conducting student educational reviews to help you make recommendations that address your child's needs.
- Facilitating educational conferences between court-involved students and their parent/guardian, school-site personnel, case managers, and you.
- Facilitating school re-entry and/or transitions for your child.
- Conveying information from the Court and agency to appropriate district, regional, and school-site staff.

### **District Court Liaisons:**

- Dr. David Ferrer
- Mr. Nicholas Pinchinat
- Ms. Veronica Wade

### **Contact Information:**

- 305-679-2800
- [juvenilejusticesupport@dadeschools.net](mailto:juvenilejusticesupport@dadeschools.net)

**Free On-Line Tutoring Offered through Miami-Dade County Public Libraries for all Students with a Registered Library Card:**

- **Available 24 hours a day: Skill Center Resource Library** (Lessons on video and paper, worksheets, practice tests in all subject areas)
- **Available 24 hours a day: Essay "Drop Off"** (get detailed feedback within 24 hours)
- **Available 3:00 p.m - 11:00 p.m.: Online "live" tutors** help students finish homework, study for tests, and write essays.

To access the above free-of-charge services, go to **[www.mdpls.org](http://www.mdpls.org)**:

- Log in using barcode # on library card and password.
- Click on **Research & Learning** on the home screen
- Click on **Free One-to-One Online Tutoring** and create an account