



The Wonder Years:

Transitioning From Middle to High School

North Carolina Parent Information and Resource Center
a project of the exceptional children's assistance center (ECAC)

Facts about your NCPIRC...
the NC Parent Information and Resource Center
a project of the exceptional children's assistance center



- Individual Assistance
- Toll-free Information Line
- Consultation
- Technical Assistance
- Intensive Services
- Workshops
- Trainer of Trainers
- Webinars

- Website
- Information and Referral
- EMPOWER Newsletter
- E-PICS
- Lending Library
- IDEAS yet to be conceived...

Moments in America for Children

- | **Every second a public school student is suspended.**
- | **Every 10 seconds a high school student drops out.**
- | **Every 17 seconds a student is corporally punished.**
- | **Every 25 seconds a child is arrested.**
- | **Every 35 seconds a baby is born into poverty.**
- | **Every 5 minutes a child is arrested for a drug offense.**
- | **Every 9 minutes a child is arrested for a violent crime.**
- | **Every 18 minutes a baby dies before his first birthday.**
- | **Every 3 hours a child or teen is killed by a firearm.**
- | **Every 5 hours a child or teen commits suicide.**
- | **Every 6 hours a child is killed by abuse or neglect.**

-Children's Defense Fund-



Let's Focus

- What do you want for your child?
- What do you need to do to get what you want?





Assumptions...



- ➔ When parents attempt to talk to their teenagers about school, the response is short and uninformative. Adults, whether teachers or family members, have taken this resistance as a sign of rejection.
- ➔ Educators have also assumed that parents aren't as involved or as interested in the progress of their children.



And the Research says...



- Teenagers do want to interact with their parents, as well as other adults, and have them involved in their lives (Duffett & Johnson, 2004)
- Shaver and Walls (1998) have found that parents do have a desire to be involved in the lives of their adolescent children, regardless of their economic status or ethnicity.



Parent Involvement Benefits

When parents are actively engaged in their children's learning, students usually benefit in the following ways:

- Earn higher grades and better test scores;
- Enrolled in higher-level programs;
- Promoted more and pass more of their classes;
- Earn more class or course credits;
- Attend school more regularly, and drop-out less;
- Have better social skills and demonstrate better behavior;
- Go on to postsecondary education or other productive life choices.

It's the law

- ➔ No Child Left Behind (ESEA)
- ➔ IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
- ➔ Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Revised)



Requirements of NCLB

- School Report Cards
- Parent Involvement Policy
- Testing of your child
- Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)
- Quality Teachers
- Supplemental Services (Title 1)
- School Choice (Title 1)
- English Language Learners

The ABC's of Testing

Standard Course of Study

- ➔ Is a curriculum adopted by the state.
- ➔ It outlines what students should know and be able to do at each grade level.
- ➔ The EOG / EOC tests measures how well students have learned these standards.

Testing in High School ...

- ➔ High School Students are tested at least once in math, reading and science.
- ➔ End-of-course tests are given for : English I, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Civics & Economics, U.S. History, Physical Science, and Biology.
- ➔ All tests are multiple choice and given during the last 12 days (block) or 17 days (traditional) of school.

Transition involves change...

As they mature, young people go through many changes!

- Physical development
- Hormonal changes
- Develop an interest in the opposite sex
- Mood swings



We have to acknowledge and accept these changes and prepare the young person to deal with them in an appropriate manner.

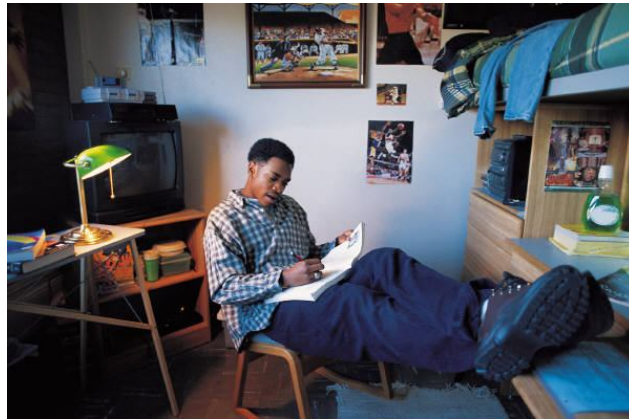
Teenage Issues

- ➔ Risk taking / drugs
- ➔ Want to be independent from the
- ➔ Want their privacy
- ➔ Avoiding responsibility
- ➔ Want to “fit” in



Parenting Teens

- Teens are moody! - *be as accepting as possible*
- When teens ask tough or embarrassing questions - answer directly
- Express your love for them!
- Encourage teen to be aware of their behavior!





The Parent's Role

Changes as young person moves into adulthood, but you are still important!

Respect your child's desire for independence but at the same time stay involved in their life and education.



Challenges

- ➔ Larger Class sizes
- ➔ Bigger Campus
- ➔ Different Teaching Styles
- ➔ The developmental difference between ninth graders and upperclassmen
- ➔ The social order starts all over again.
- ➔ Academic requirements

Their Concerns

- ~~Basing friends~~
- ~~Making~~ new friends
- ~~Scheduling~~ classes
- ~~Moving from one class to another~~ with in the
- ~~cafeteria~~ Lost

Start Early

- ➔ Talk to your child about High School.
- ➔ Be Positive.
- ➔ Attend orientation and /or open house
- ➔ Ask questions about the curriculum.
- ➔ Be involved in the course selection process in middle school.

More Families Can Do...

- ➔ **Talk** to your children on a regular basis.
- ➔ **Be specific**, ask about a specific test, homework assignment, or special event.
- ➔ **Work** with your child to set goals each year.
- ➔ **Monitor** student progress daily.
- ➔ **Create** a phone tree to help all parents stay informed on school events or activities.
- ➔ **Participate** on improvement teams that the school creates.

More Families Can Do...

- ➔ **Set fair and consistent rules.**
Parents need to set boundaries that help children learn responsibility.
- ➔ Be sure that young people **understand** the purpose behind the rules.
- ➔ **Be an example.**
Remember to model and teach. Maintain regularly scheduled family time to share mutual interests.
- ➔ **Invite** your child's friends over.
- ➔ **Attend** open house.

Life is a Journey
Prepare for the Trip
Transition from High School



Gather information....

- ➔ Talk to the school's guidance Counselor
- ➔ Understand graduation requirements
- ➔ Know requirements for College
- ➔ Find out about enrollment in advanced classes
- ➔ Consider activities that will help develop skills such as community service and internships.

Contact Information

North Carolina

Parent Information and Resource Center (NCPIRC)

a project of the exceptional children's assistance center

907 Barra Row, Suites 102/103, Davidson, NC 28036

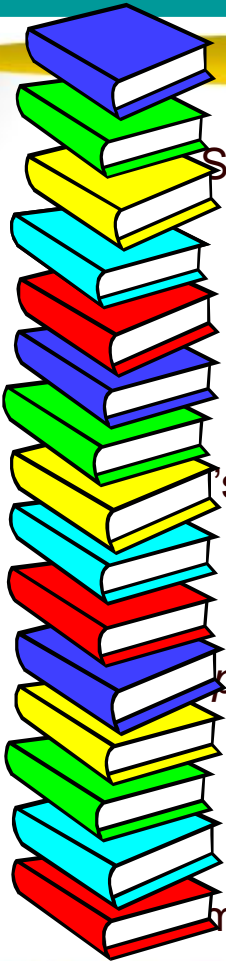
704-892-1321 800-962-6817 (*parent info line*)

www.ecac-parentcenter.org

There are only two lasting
gifts we can give our
children
one is roots-
the other is wings...

-Hodding Carter

Sources...



Goodbye Old Hello New! Transitioning from Elementary to Middle, Jefferson Schools, jc-schools.net/parent/middleschooltransition.ppt

“Helping Your Child Prepare for MCAS”, Parents Place, www.pplace.org

“Life is a journey-Transition to Adulthood” (ppt), Exceptional’s Assistance Center, www.ecac-parentcenter.org

Engaging Families at the Secondary Level: What Schools Can Do to Support Family Involvement, Southwest Educational Development Lab 2005
Resources

The North Carolina Testing Program (2009 - 2010), NCDPI Division of Accountability, www.ncpublicschools.org

Sample tests: www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/parents

Standard Course of Study: www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/