



Dealing with a child who is experiencing failure in school can be an extremely stressful experience. Sometimes you feel like you've tried everything and don't know what else to do.

Parenting is the most challenging job in the world, and we know that there are no easy answers when it comes to helping your child succeed in school.

You know your child better than anyone and have

undoubtedly tried many strategies to help your child become more successful. Below we have created a list that may provide some new ideas to assist you in your efforts with your child. Counselors can help provide resources and information related to these suggestions (call 586-797-3300 for help).

If one of these suggestions does not work for your family, please try others on the list. Some of these ideas may seem radical or uncomfortable but may be necessary to help your child. Whatever happens, please do not give up!

- Encourage and monitor your child's use of the student planner on a daily basis. The planner should be used daily for recording homework assignments and upcoming tests.
- Check PowerSchool on a daily or weekly basis. Make sure any missing assignments listed are completed and assign consequences for incomplete work. See one of our front office secretaries for your username and password.
- Help your child set short term academic goals (1-2 weeks at a time) and create rewards for each goal obtained.
- Contact teachers regularly via phone calls or e-mail. The school phone is 586-797-3300. Teacher e-mail addresses can be found at www.ulticak12.org or you can email them through PowerSchool by clicking on their name.
- Monitor your child in completing a **mandatory** nightly study time. This should be a minimum of 30 minutes (supervised by parents) on all school nights.
- Sign up your child for Jeannette's Homework Club Program. This is our homework tutoring club that is supervised by certified teachers.
- Impose consequences until grades are raised (examples: refuse extra spending money for movies or fun activities, delay driver's training/driver's license, take away cell phone privileges).
- Make attendance at Open House and Parent Teacher Conferences a priority so you can get to know your child's teachers and classroom expectations

- Arrange for academic help or tutoring at a learning center. See your child's counselor for a list of private tutors and tutoring centers in the area.
- Arrange for your child to have professional counseling to address possible underlying emotional issues. See your child's counselor if you need counseling referrals.
- Consider family counseling to address issues such as power struggles, family communication, etc.
- Take your child for substance abuse testing or counseling. When students are failing many classes, substance abuse may be involved. The Shelby Township Police Department sells several different home tests for drug and alcohol detection. Call the department at (586) 731-2121 for details.
- Make an appointment for your child to be checked for medical problems which may be negatively affecting school performance.
- Attend a parenting class such as Systematic Training for Effective Parenting offered through the CARE Student Assistance Center (586-541-0033).
- Help your child explore what he/she wants to do after high school – Creating a vision for the future can increase motivation in school today (visit colleges, meet with military reps, look into vocational programs.)
- Reinforce the critical importance of good attendance habits.
- Reduce hours at part-time job if work is interfering with school, or alternately, help your child find a part-time job (with limited hours during the school week) to learn more responsibility and to develop time management skills.
- Read the *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by Sean Covey or any other book that might help you with your child.
- Limit time with TV, video games, computer and cell phone.
- Eat dinner together.
- Strictly limit the number of school nights your child spends out with friends doing "nothing in particular."
- Focus on positives and show your child daily your love and support.

The key to helping your child change is a consistent response over a long period of time. Bad habits and difficulties often develop over a long period of time and cannot be changed overnight. We know that your child has many strengths and phenomenal potential for success, and we thank you for your dedication to seeing that potential realized.