



RAISE THE BAR | CONVERSATION GUIDE

Sparking Parent Conversations

WELCOME!

Now that you've had a chance to see the educational checkup and other tools on our website, **raisethebarparents.org**, we want to help you take the conversation live. We've created this toolkit to help you connect with other active parents who, like you, want to know more about what kind of education their children are getting and how they can better support their children's educational success.

This toolkit builds on your experience at our website, **raisethebarparents.org**, and offers step-by-step guidance to help you engage parents in your community in a conversation. Use the toolkit to organize a book club and kick-start a conversation with parents around a book or article on topics related to raising the bar. Or, use the toolkit to gather parents to talk about your experiences using the **educational checkup tool** ([HTTP://RAISETHEBARPARENTS.ORG/GETTOOLS](http://raisethebarparents.org/gettools)) and share strategies to help support your children's education at home and at school.

We will improve this toolkit as we learn more from parents like you about what works. This is a collective effort *for* parents, *by* parents. In that spirit, we invite you to not only *use* the toolkit, but, more importantly, to work with us to *co-create* the best possible guide for parents.



Use these ideas as a starting point. Be creative and add your own ideas to organize a successful meeting. The goal is to offer a space for conversation on questions like:

? *How can we as parents learn what will help us support our children's success in school?*

? *What concrete steps can we take to help our children succeed?*

? *Are our kids learning what they need to know to succeed in a changing world?*

? *How can we most effectively talk with our children's teachers to make sure we're working together to help our children learn and thrive?*

? *How can we support one another as active parents as we figure these things out?*

As you support one another and your children, please also **share your feedback and suggestions** ([HTTP://RAISETHEBARPARENTS.ORG/CONTACTUS](http://raisethebarparents.org/contactus)) all along the way! We want to hear from you—what do you think about this toolkit, and how can we improve it? And what new ideas do you have for how we can better guide and support you?

We look forward to hearing from you!

ORGANIZING A PARENT GATHERING

Parent meetings can take place in many sizes and formats, from small gatherings to large ones. You can design a parent chat that feels right for you—in the library, at a local coffee shop, or in someone’s home—where you can build a meaningful conversation with other parents and support one another.

This toolkit provides tips and guidance for two kinds of parent gatherings to discuss questions about the education our kids need and what we can do to support them:



A book club, with 4-10 parents coming together to discuss a specific book or article related to our kids’ education



A small group, with 3-5 parents coming together for a house party or a chat at a coffee shop (a great size for rich conversation with different perspectives)

Organizing a parent meeting doesn’t have to be overwhelming. Use this toolkit to find suggestions for how to get organized, with helpful tips you can follow to make your event a success.

One final note: Many of you will have your own great ideas for how to bring parents together, so we encourage you to view these suggestions just as a starting point. Be creative and follow your instincts. Our goal is to help you build meaningful conversations with other active parents that will help you help your children succeed.

Let’s get started!

ORGANIZE A PARENT BOOK CLUB



Book club format



An invitation for 4-10 parents to join a book club about raising the bar to help your children succeed



Held in your home, at a local coffee shop, or at your local library or community center



Monthly (or every other month) group gathering to discuss a book or article about our kids' education and share perspectives and ideas with other parents



Together you can get a better understanding of how to help your children succeed!

Countdown and Tips to Plan a Successful Book Club Meeting

PART 1



PART 1: BEFORE THE BOOK CLUB MEETS (1 month out)

- **INVITE A GROUP OF PARENTS TO JOIN THE BOOK CLUB.**
Think about who you would like to invite—friends, other parents in your child's grade, or whoever you think would be interested in this issue. By inviting them far enough in advance, you can let them know what book they will need to read so they have enough time to get and read the book (or article).
- **CHOOSE A BOOK OR ARTICLE TO READ AND DISCUSS.**
You'll want to select titles that relate to the topic of our kids' education, that parents can easily get a copy of, and that everyone can realistically read in time. Choose the book or article based on the realistic level of time commitment possible:
 - **Read a full book in advance.** *This is the most time-intensive option. If you choose a book, you may want to allow one month's notice (or two, if you think you'll keep the book club meetings going and you want to space them out more).*



BOOK IDEAS

Smartest Kids in the World
AMANDA RIPLEY

How Children Succeed
PAUL TOUGH

Mindset
CAROL DWECK

What Your __ Grader Needs to Know series
E.D. HIRSCH, JR.

Nurture Shock
PO BRONSON & ASHLEY MERRYMAN

Outliers
MALCOLM GLADWELL

The Good School
PEG TYRE

Work Hard, Be Nice
JAY MATTHEWS

Getting It Done
KARIN CHENOWETH

- **Read one chapter of a book in advance.** For a less demanding time commitment, you can ask parents to read a chapter from a selected book. This approach will work well if you plan to organize an ongoing group.
- **Read an article in advance.** You could start with an article to make it easy for folks to join the first time. For parents who don't have time to read in advance, you could take the first 10-15 minutes of the meeting to let everyone read a short article. Choosing an article instead of a book is a good way to test the waters and see if there's interest in continuing to meet, at which point the group can decide together what level of time commitment works best and agree to readings that everyone can finish on time.

We provide some suggested titles here, but there are many others that might interest parents in your community. Check with your library to see if it can get multiple copies of books you choose.

○ **CHOOSE A MEETING PLACE.**

Pick a location that's easy and doesn't cost anything, like your home. You can gather in the living room or at the kitchen table. You could also meet at a neighborhood coffee shop. Or your local library or community center might have a meeting room you can use for free.

○ **PICK A DATE TO MEET.**

Find a date and an hour that works well for you and the other parents. You can use **doodle.com**, a free group scheduling app/website, to poll everyone's availability. Be sure to give yourselves plenty of time to read!

○ **MAKE A PLAN FOR CHILDCARE.**

If you know that parents will need childcare for young children, have a plan to provide this. It will help bring more parents to your meeting. You can recruit a babysitter or high school students whose parents are planning to attend the meeting. Parents who sign up for child care can be asked to pay a small amount like \$5 in exchange for care and a snack for their children.

○ **PREPARE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS IN ADVANCE.**

Take some time to come up with a few questions to get the group discussion rolling. Question prompts can help get the conversation going. To get started, check out the author's website. Many authors' websites post suggested questions for book clubs. Pick a few questions that you think will invite good discussion, and make a cheat sheet so you have them ready to go.



ARTICLE IDEAS

What if the Secret to Success is Failure?

PAUL TOUGH
([HTTP://NYTI.MS/18MMDUD](http://nyti.ms/18MMDUD))

Why Kids Should Grade Teachers

AMANDA RIPLEY
([HTTP://BIT.LY/1HWV10A](http://bit.ly/1HWV10A))

How Not to Talk to Your Kids

PO BRONSON
([HTTP://NYM.AG/19M94OU](http://nym.ag/19M94OU))

Making it in America

ADAM DAVIDSON
([HTTP://BIT.LY/1KPMCFD](http://bit.ly/1KPMCFD))

The Psych Approach

DAVID BROOKS
([HTTP://NYTI.MS/1GYNXT](http://nyti.ms/1GYNXT))

Shortchanged by The Bell

LUIS UBIÑAS AND CHRIS GABRIELI
([HTTP://NYTI.MS/1MX7KUD](http://nyti.ms/1MX7KUD))

PART 2



PART 2: DURING THE BOOK CLUB MEETING

○ CONSIDER PROVIDING SNACKS AND DRINKS, IF YOU'RE HOSTING.

This is an option, not a requirement. So if you decide not to provide them, don't let that be a barrier to an important conversation!

○ BREAK THE ICE.

If you invited parents who don't know one another, give everyone a chance to share a bit about themselves and their children.

To break the ice, ask parents to share their names, the ages and grades of their children, and one thing they wish for their children's future. Focus on questions that will help the group relax and get to know one another better.

○ GET THE CONVERSATION STARTED.

As the host, you can lead off the conversation. To get started, ask each parent to share some thoughts about the book or article.

Use the questions you prepared in advance to begin the discussion.

But remember, these are just prompts—the most important questions are the ones you and the other parents want to discuss. Consider making a list of questions that come up that parents might want to ask their child, teacher, or principal and share it with the group afterwards.

○ CLOSE THE MEETING.

After 45 minutes to an hour, you will want to wrap up the conversation and bring the meeting to an end. Here are some ideas for how to close:

- *Share back any questions that you heard come up that parents want to ask teachers, students, or other parents.*
- *If you want to, explore whether parents want to do this again with a different article/book. Agree to the next time the group will meet, maybe even picking a standing monthly date (e.g. the 3rd Tuesday of the month). See if someone wants to host the next gathering and choose the next reading assignment.*

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- *Was there anything in the book that made you think about your child?*
- *Did you relate to the ideas presented in this book?*
- *Do you think kids these days need a different kind of education than we had? What does that education look like?*
- *Did the book make you think differently about your child's learning and your role as a parent? In what ways?*
- *Did any questions come up that you might want to ask your child, teacher, or other parents? If so, what would you need to be able to have those conversations?*

PART 3



PART 3: AFTER THE BOOK CLUB MEETS

Congratulations! You organized your first Raise the Bar book club! Here are some suggested follow-up items you might want to do over the next few days:

- **SEND AN EMAIL TO THANK EVERYONE FOR COMING.**
- **SHARE SOME RESOURCES TO ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO KEEP EXPLORING THE TOPIC:**
 - *Follow up with an article written by the same author or focused on issues that the group talked about (we would be happy to help you find one).*
 - *Let parents know about the personalized resources they can get through the educational check up on raisethebarparents.org, in case they are interested in checking it out.*
 - *Share this **Questions to Ask guide** ([HTTP://CDN1.RAISETHEBARPARENTS.ORG/RESOURCES/FOLLOWUP/QUESTIONS-TO-ASK.PDF](http://cdn1.raisethebarparents.org/resources/followup/questions-to-ask.pdf)) for parents to use at at their next parent-teacher conference.*
- **CONSIDER CREATING A FACEBOOK GROUP TO KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING ONLINE.**
- **TELL US HOW YOUR CONVERSATION WENT, WHAT RESOURCES AND INFORMATION YOU AND THE GROUP BRAINSTORMED, AND HOW WE CAN HELP.**
- **CONTACT US.**

Contact us ([HTTP://RAISETHEBARPARENTS.ORG/CONTACTUS](http://raisethebarparents.org/contactus)) from the website, or **email us** (RAISETHEBARPARENTS@AMERICAACHIEVES.ORG) to share what worked and what didn't.

HOW DID IT GO? SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK!

- *What are 3 things that worked in your meeting?*
- *What are 3 things you would do or suggest to improve this activity?*
- *What book or article did you use as the starting point for your discussion?*
- *Did you learn of any new resources or information that would help you help your child succeed academically? Which ones?*
- *Will your group meet again? If so, how often? If not, why not?*
- *How can we better support you and other parents to make your job easier?*

ORGANIZE A PARENT CHAT



Small group format



An invitation for 3-5 parents to join a parent chat about your experiences using the educational checkup with your kids on raisethebarparents.org



Held in your home, at a coffee shop, or at your local library or community center



An opportunity to connect with other active parents around what kind of education your children need, how to support your children's learning, brainstorm resources and information that would make it easier to support your children, and compare notes around questions that came up for you after your children took the educational check up at raisethebarparents.org

Countdown and Tips to Plan a Successful Parent Chat

PART 1



PART 1: BEFORE THE PARENT CHAT (1 month out)

○ INVITE A GROUP OF PARENTS TO TALK ABOUT THE EDUCATIONAL CHECKUP THEY CAN GIVE THEIR CHILDREN AT [RAISETHEBARPARENTS.ORG](https://raisethebarparents.org).

Ask a few friends or other parents who have children in the same grade or school to take some time to explore the **educational checkup tool** ([HTTP://RAISETHEBARPARENTS.ORG/GETTOOLS](https://raisethebarparents.org/gettools)) and then invite them to get together for a chat about the experience. Let them know it will be an informal gathering and encourage them to come prepared to talk about their experience using the tool and to give and get advice.

○ PICK A MEETING PLACE.

Choose a place that's easy, like someone's kitchen table or living room, the neighborhood coffee shop, or a playground. If you choose to meet at your local library or community center, be sure to reserve a room in advance.



Remember, a few parents won't be able to make it, so invite a few more than you want to attend.



If you will be meeting in a place with wireless Internet access, you might suggest they bring along laptops or tablets so everyone can explore the tool together.

○ **PICK A DATE TO MEET.**

Choose a day and time that works for you and the group. Plan for at least an hour. Send an email or text to everyone with the day, time and location.

○ **MAKE A PLAN FOR CHILDCARE.**

If you know that parents will need childcare for young children, have a plan to provide this. You can recruit a babysitter or high school students whose parents are planning to attend the meeting. Parents who sign up for child care can be asked to pay a small amount like \$5 in exchange for care and a snack for their children.

○ **FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE EDUCATIONAL CHECKUP TOOL.**

Spend some time getting to know the educational checkup. You will want to be able to talk about your experience with it when you meet. Familiarize yourself with the dashboard, and take a few practice runs on the ELA or math adventures with your own child. You can even take one of the adventures yourself! Take notes on your experience—what you especially liked, what your child liked, and how you might apply what you learned to help you support your child's education, etc. Review the reports you got and take a look at the question-by-question breakdown, too.

PART 2



PART 2: DURING THE PARENT CHAT

○ **CONSIDER PROVIDING SNACKS AND DRINKS, IF YOU'RE HOSTING.**

If your chat happens to be around dinnertime, order pizza and ask everyone to chip in a few dollars, or make it a pot-luck. Whatever you decide, just be sure you let parents know in advance what to expect.

○ **BREAK THE ICE.**

If you invited parents who don't know one another, give everyone a chance to share a bit about themselves and their children.

○ **GET THE CONVERSATION STARTED.**

As the host, you will want to lead off the conversation. Begin by talking about why you have invited everyone to come together. Here are some suggested talking points:



To break the ice, ask parents to share their names, the ages and grades of their children, and one thing they wish for their children's future. Focus on questions that will help the group relax and get to know one another better.

- *Thanks for getting together.*
- *During this time, we will talk about what we can do to raise the bar for our children's education. What are we already doing to support our children's learning, and what do we need to make that job easier? We'll also share our experiences with the educational checkup, in addition to any concrete advice we can offer one another on how to best help our kids succeed.*
- *This is meant to be an informal chat. Some people may want to share their results from the checkup, and some will not, that's absolutely ok. The point is to talk about what we've learned from the educational check up, what questions and concerns the checkup leaves us wondering about, and what specific things we might do differently to help our kids succeed as a result.*
- *Raise the Bar, the project that created the educational check up, is piloting the tool with a select community of active parents around the country, and they would really like to hear our feedback and ideas on how to improve it. So, at the end of our meeting, we'll gather our feedback to share with them.*



Suggest to parents that, if they feel comfortable sharing their results from their child's educational check up, they print out and bring a copy. Make sure they understand this is voluntary and that no one feels pressured to share their results. What matters most is getting parents together to talk what they learned from the educational checkup and how it can help them support their children's learning.

○ **EXPLORE THE EDUCATIONAL CHECKUP AND SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES USING IT.**

If everyone has not had a chance to use the checkup tool at home, you can, display the educational checkup on your computer or tablet and spend some time exploring it together. But if parents are already familiar with the tools and want to focus the conversation on what they learned, all the better!

Invite the group to have a conversation about what they learned from the educational checkup. Remember to take notes as parents are talking. You may want to use these later to provide feedback from the group.

For parents who had a chance to use the tool at home before the meeting:

- *Did anyone have a chance to try the educational checkup at home with his or her child? How did that go?*
- *Did your child have fun? What did s/he like about the tool? What did s/he not like?*
- *Did you learn anything new about your child? (Get more specific by focusing on a particular element of the tool, such as the Reading Adventure or the Math Room Adventure)*
 - *Let's talk about the reading and math adventures.*
 - *Which adventure did your child do? Did you watch while your child completed the adventure? What did you notice?*

- *Did you try out one or both of the adventures yourself? Which one? What did you think? Were the adventures harder or easier than you expected?*

- *Are you using the follow up resources? How are those working? What does your child think about those?*
- *What other resources would you recommend to other parents?*
- *Since you took the checkup, has anything changed for you or your child? What?*
- *Now that you have your results from the checkup, is there anything you're concerned about? What are you doing about it?*
- *What did you like about the tool? Are there some things you didn't like, or that you think could be improved? What are those?*
- *How might the educational checkup help other active parents who want to help their kids succeed?*

○ **PRACTICE CONVERSATIONS WITH TEACHERS OR OTHER PARENTS ABOUT THE EDUCATIONAL CHECKUP.**

Encourage parents to brainstorm together how to talk to their children, teachers, or other parents about the educational checkup and what they learned. If parents have not yet taken the checkup at home, have the group complete one adventure together to use as an example and ask parents to imagine the kinds of conversations they would want to have based on that experience.

- *Do you have any questions that you want to ask your child, teacher, principal or other parents? If so, what would you need to be able to have those conversations?*
- *Have you and your child talked about the checkup? What was that like?*
- *Who has already talked with their child's teacher about the checkup? How did it go? What worked and what didn't work?*
- *Have you used the tool's feature to share your child's results with the teacher? Why or why not? Did you share the results with anyone else?*
- *Have you told other parents about the checkup? Have you shared the website with them?*
- *If some of those conversations were hard to have, or, if you're nervous that they might be hard, what strategies might help make those conversations turn out well?*



Consider leading the group through a "role play" exercise to practice ways to have positive conversations about your children's education. Assign someone to play the role of the child's parent and someone else to play the role of the child (or teacher, or principal, or another parent). Then ask the child's parent to have a discussion with that person. For example, the parent may want to talk with the child about his challenges completing the math room adventure on the educational checkup. Invite the rest of the group to observe the role play and to then offer feedback on how the parent can make the conversation produce the best outcome for the child.



*To help parents have conversations with their teachers, share this guide for **Questions to Ask** ([HTTP://CDN1.RAISETHEBARPARENTS.ORG/RESOURCES/FOLLOWUP/QUESTIONS-TO-ASK.PDF](http://cdn1.raisethebarparents.org/resources/followup/questions-to-ask.pdf))*



Show parents how to share educational checkup results from the dashboard.



*Remind parents about the **Share Website** button ([HTTP://RAISETHEBARPARENTS.ORG/SHAREWEBSITE](http://raisethebarparents.org/sharewebsite))*

○ **CONNECT THE EDUCATIONAL CHECKUP TO A DISCUSSION ABOUT THE KIND OF EDUCATION CHILDREN ARE GETTING AND HOW TO HELP.**

Help parents connect their experience with the educational checkup to their interest in helping raise the bar for our kids' education. Here are some suggested questions:

- *What did you learn from the checkup about the kinds of skills that our kids need to learn? How is that different than what we learned as kids?*
- *What are your best ideas on concrete steps we as parents can take to help our children succeed?*
- *What would make our job easier? What resources or information would help us be better at supporting our children's learning?*
- *Have you found resources—websites or articles, for example—to help you support your child's learning that you would recommend? What kinds of resources are we looking for that we might be able to help one another find?*

○ **CLOSE THE MEETING.**

After about an hour, you will want to wind down your chat. Here are some ideas for how to close:

- *Share back any specific ideas, advice, and resources that you heard come up.*
- *If folks are open to the idea, suggest that they share the link to the website and their educational checkup experience with a few friends and maybe even host their own chat.*
- *For parents who didn't have a chance to try the tool at home before the meeting, encourage them to go home and take the checkup with their child. Afterwards, they can **Contact Us** page ([HTTP://RAISETHEBARPARENTS.ORG/CONTACTUS](http://RAISETHEBARPARENTS.ORG/CONTACTUS)) to let us know what they thought.*
- *You may want to explore whether the group would like to meet again to continue the conversation and to support one another in any next steps or conversations with their child's teacher. Agree to the next time the group will meet, maybe even picking a standing monthly date (e.g. the 3rd Tuesday of the month). Ask if someone wants to host the next gathering. To maintain momentum, the group may want to agree on completing a homework assignment before the next meeting, such as using the Learning Habits Growth Card on the educational checkup, talking to their teacher about their child's results from the checkup, or reading an article about a shared topic of interest.*

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK!

The educational checkup is a new tool that raisethebarparents.org is piloting with parents, so we would really appreciate your feedback on what parents think about it and how the tool can best support them.

During your chat, take notes to keep track of parents' comments and ideas about the tool. Listen out for specific comments about what works and what doesn't. Tell us what's missing—after using the checkup and other tools on the website, are there additional resources parents would like to have?

After the chat, you can get online and send us what you learned or encourage parents to submit their feedback directly through the website. Use the **Contact Us** page on the website. ([HTTP://RAISETHEBARPARENTS.ORG/CONTACTUS](http://RAISETHEBARPARENTS.ORG/CONTACTUS))

PART 3



PART 3: AFTER THE PARENT CHAT

Congratulations! You held your first Raise the Bar parent chat! Here are some suggested follow-up items you might want to do over the next few days:

- **SEND AN EMAIL TO THANK EVERYONE FOR COMING.**
 - Ask everyone to let 3 friends know about the educational checkup on raisethebarparents.org.
 - Offer this guide for **Questions to Ask** when talking with your teachers about your kids' education. ([HTTP://CDN1.RAISETHEBARPARENTS.ORG/RESOURCES/FOLLOWUP/QUESTIONS-TO-ASK.PDF](http://cdn1.raisethebarparents.org/resources/followup/questions-to-ask.pdf))
 - Encourage everyone to keep exploring a higher bar. Suggest a book or article about issues the group talked about:
 - *What if the Secret to Success is Failure?*
PAUL TOUGH, ([HTTP://NYTI.MS/18MMDUD](http://nyti.ms/18mmdud))
 - *Why Kids Should Grade Teachers*
AMANDA RIPLEY, ([HTTP://BIT.LY/1HWV10A](http://bit.ly/1HWV10A))
- **TELL US HOW YOUR CONVERSATION WENT, WHAT RESOURCES AND INFORMATION YOU AND THE GROUP BRAINSTORMED, AND HOW WE CAN HELP.**
- **CONTACT US.**
Contact us ([HTTP://RAISETHEBARPARENTS.ORG/CONTACTUS](http://raisethebarparents.org/contactus)) from the website, or **email us** ([RAISETHEBARPARENTS@AMERICAACHIEVES.ORG](mailto:raisethebarparents@americaachieves.org)) to share what worked and what didn't.

HOW DID IT GO? SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK!

- ? What are 3 things that worked in your meeting?
.....
- ? What are 3 things you suggest to improve this activity?
.....
- ? What are things that parents liked and did not like about the educational checkup?
.....
- ? Will your group meet again? If so, how often? If not, why not?
.....
- ? Anything else you would like to share?



Countdown and Tips to Plan a Successful Book Club Meeting

PART 1: BEFORE THE BOOK CLUB MEETS *(1 month out)*

- INVITE A GROUP OF PARENTS TO JOIN THE BOOK CLUB.
- CHOOSE A BOOK OR ARTICLE TO READ AND DISCUSS.
- CHOOSE A MEETING PLACE.
- PICK A DATE TO MEET.
- MAKE A PLAN FOR CHILDCARE.
- PREPARE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS IN ADVANCE.

PART 2: DURING THE BOOK CLUB MEETING

- CONSIDER PROVIDING SNACKS AND DRINKS, IF YOU'RE HOSTING.
- BREAK THE ICE.
- GET THE CONVERSATION STARTED.
- CLOSE THE MEETING.

PART 3: AFTER THE BOOK CLUB MEETS

- SEND AN EMAIL TO THANK EVERYONE FOR COMING.
- SHARE SOME RESOURCES TO ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO KEEP EXPLORING THE TOPIC.
- CONSIDER CREATING A FACEBOOK GROUP TO KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING ONLINE.
- TELL US HOW YOUR CONVERSATION WENT, WHAT RESOURCES AND INFORMATION YOU AND THE GROUP BRAINSTORMED, AND HOW WE CAN HELP.
- CONTACT US AT RAISETHEBARPARENTS@AMERICAACHIEVES.ORG



Countdown and Tips to Plan a Successful Parent Chat

PART 1: BEFORE THE PARENT CHAT *(1 month out)*

- INVITE A GROUP OF PARENTS TO TALK ABOUT THE EDUCATIONAL CHECKUP THEY CAN GIVE THEIR CHILDREN AT [RAISETHEBARPARENTS.ORG](https://www.raisethebarparents.org).
- PICK A MEETING PLACE.
- PICK A DATE TO MEET.
- MAKE A PLAN FOR CHILDCARE.
- FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE EDUCATIONAL CHECKUP TOOL.

PART 2: DURING THE PARENT CHAT

- CONSIDER PROVIDING SNACKS AND DRINKS, IF YOU'RE HOSTING.
- BREAK THE ICE.
- GET THE CONVERSATION STARTED.
- EXPLORE THE EDUCATIONAL CHECKUP AND SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES USING IT.
- PRACTICE CONVERSATIONS WITH TEACHERS OR OTHER PARENTS ABOUT THE EDUCATIONAL CHECKUP.
- CONNECT THE EDUCATIONAL CHECKUP TO A DISCUSSION ABOUT THE KIND OF EDUCATION CHILDREN ARE GETTING AND HOW TO HELP.
- CLOSE THE MEETING.

PART 3: AFTER THE PARENT CHAT

- SEND AN EMAIL TO THANK EVERYONE FOR COMING.
- TELL US HOW YOUR CONVERSATION WENT, WHAT RESOURCES AND INFORMATION YOU AND THE GROUP BRAINSTORMED, AND HOW WE CAN HELP.
- CONTACT US AT [RAISETHEBARPARENTS@AMERICAACHIEVES.ORG](mailto:raisethebarparents@americaachieves.org)