



# Parent-Teacher Conferences

## An Important Connection

Parent-Teacher Conferences occur every year in Idaho Public Schools. They provide an opportunity to meet and talk with teachers, principals, coaches, and counselors from your child's school. These conferences build a connection between the school and your family which can be used by everyone to ensure that your child has a successful school year. Active participation in your child's education will improve the overall educational experience for your child.

### How can I prepare for Parent-Teacher Conferences?

Begin by asking questions. Ask your child about their experiences in each teacher's classroom. What is going well? What might need improvement? Ask them what would help them be more successful in their classes. Understanding your child's perspective will prepare you to discuss issues or ideas with their teacher. This will give you time to produce practical solutions to potential problems. If necessary, make a list of topics you want to discuss with the teacher and bring it with you. Angrily stating problems and blaming the teacher without offering potential solutions may not lead to resolution. Teachers want the best educational outcome for your child, and respectful dialogue is key in making this happen.

### What if my child is a high-achiever and there are no problems?

Parent-Teacher Conferences are still important for those students who are *not* struggling. As a parent, you should be familiar with what school is like for your child. Do not miss the opportunity to discuss academic expectations, teacher observations, and classroom needs. The connection made with your child's teacher will be useful throughout the entire school year.