



## School Engagement Conversation Starters

**Listen and validate:** Many children and families are feeling anxious about what school will look like this year. It is important to listen to your child and to validate these concerns. Nobody has been through this before, so it makes sense for us all to feel uneasy at best.

**Check on school engagement:** Keeping students engaged in schooling right now is going to be difficult. Parents/caretakers may not know where to turn for help. In Pennsylvania, young people between the ages of 6 and 18 are required to go to school. Despite this requirement, engaging in learning and school may be challenging and difficult for some. As a professional connected to school aged children, you are in the unique position help. You may be that one integral person who says the right thing or makes the right connection!

### Conversation Starters for parents/guardians/caregivers:

- Have you talked to your children about what the next school year is going to look like in your family?
- Have you connected with other parents from your school district in your neighborhood or on social media?
- Are you logged into parent portals? Email blasts? Text reminders?
- Where do you anticipate possible education struggles for your child(ren)?
- Do your children have what they need to be successful in school this year? What else might they need to help them succeed even further?

### Conversation starters for students/older youth:

- What do you usually look forward to at the beginning of a school year? Do you look forward to these same things, or other things this year? How might this change for you as your school changes the way that you will attend?
- Do you have a favorite subject? What is it?
- What are your favorite activities at school?
- What do you think you need to be successful in school this year?