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# Finishing Strong at School Meetings: You Can Do It!

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# When to Request a School Meeting

- Deteriorating academic grades
  - Increased disappointment and frustration
  - Decrease in sense of worth
  - Peer/Social difficulties
  - Negative outlook about school
  - Behavior problems at school/home
  - Physical symptoms related to school
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## Benefits of School Meetings: What Can They Prevent?

- School refusal
  - Difficulties at home due to stress at school
  - Deteriorating grades
  - Suspensions
  - Adversarial relationships with school officials
  - Loss of control
  - Physical symptoms associated with anxiety and depression
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# School Meeting Preparation: Organizing Student Data

- Request educational/medical records
  - Organize records chronologically
  - Place in a large three ring binder
  - Separate records with tabs
  - Create a timeline of events (Microsoft Excel)
  - Request an independent classroom observation
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# Parent Report Information: What Data to Include

- How does your child learn best?
  - What approaches work best with your child?
  - What best motivates your child?
  - Communicate your concerns regarding:
    - Academic needs
    - Behavioral needs
    - Social needs
    - Emotional needs
    - Show regression/progression
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## Show Progression/Regression: Target Cognition, Academics, Emotions, Social Skills and Behaviors

- Graph Quantitative Data: Numeric, Statistical Analysis
  - Graph Qualitative Data : Text and multiple forms of data.
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# School Meeting Tips for Success

- Submit reports from medical/educational providers before the meeting
  - Bring flavored water and chocolate
  - Model desired appropriate meeting behavior
  - Bring records and timeline of event
  - Ask experts to attend
  - Dress professionally
  - Be willing to negotiate
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# Desired School Meeting Behavior

- Focus on your issues/concerns
  - State facts with data
  - Ask questions respectfully
  - Emphasize strengths of your student
  - Demonstrate effective communication/listening skills
  - Be genuine, respectful, and gracious
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# Finishing Strong Advocacy Support

- *Consultation*
  - *Information/Referral to local professionals to diagnose and treat*
  - *Team Meeting Attendance*
  - *Mediation/Negotiations with administrators*
  - *Due Process Preparation/Avoidance*
  - *Phone Conferences*
  - *Educational/Medical Record Review*
  - *Timeline creation*
  - *Legal research*
  - *Letter writing*
  - *IEP Attendance*
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