

## K-6 STUDENT LEARNING ADVOCATE

### **What is a Student Learning Advocate?**

The primary role of the Student Learning Advocate (SLA) is to act as student mentor, advocate and liaison between families and schools. SLAs may also provide cultural resources, staff development, and activities that contribute to students' cultural identity and academic achievement.

The Student Learning Advocate usually works in collaboration with members of student support teams, teachers and administrators. The Student Learning Advocate mentors students throughout the school year and uses an approach that includes placing emphasis on individual and small group support, ongoing monitoring of student progress, and helping students to make better choices. Student Learning Advocates provide student support in the following ways:

- Relationship building with students and family members
- Collaborating with teachers and school staff
- Routine check-ins with students
- Individualized attention
- Group activities that promote positive social skills
- Assistance with classroom assignments

### **What issues do Student Learning Advocates address?**

Student Learning Advocates meet weekly with students and address social/emotional and cultural issues that may affect academic performance.

### **How are students assigned to a Student Learning Advocate?**

Student referrals should be based upon recommendations from members of the Human Services Team, Student Assistance Team, or Principal. Parents may also request to have mentoring relationships established with their child. SLAs mentor students who may or may not have a current IEP or ELL referral.

### **How will I know if a Student Learning Advocate has been assigned to my child?**

The Student Learning Advocate will establish a 2-way communication process with families of those children assigned to his/her caseload. On-going communications will be maintained with parents throughout the year. Parents may notify the school principal if they do not want their child assigned to a Student Learning Advocate.

### **Is the Student Learning Advocate available full time at my child's school?**

Most Student Learning Advocates alternate days between two or three schools. SLA schedules are available in the school office.

### **What department is responsible for the Student Learning Advocates?**

Student Learning Advocates are staff of the Department of Equity and Integration.

For more information visit our webpage under Student Services at:

<http://www.district279.org/services/StudentServices/StudentSupport/DEI.cfm>