

# GETTING STARTED TIPS FOR FAMILIES

## Using TalkingPoints for Strong Family-School Partnerships

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### Welcome, Families!

We are excited to introduce you to TalkingPoints, a powerful tool designed to help you stay connected with your child's teachers and support your child's education. By following these guidelines, you can ensure that you are making the most out of this valuable resource and fostering a strong partnership with your child's educators.

#### Ready to Go! No Setup Required

You will automatically receive messages from your child's school and teachers via SMS text unless you choose to download the TalkingPoints app and log in. This means you can start benefiting from TalkingPoints right away, without any extra steps. If you would prefer an app experience, [download the app](#) and log in using your mobile phone number.



#### Save School + Teacher Numbers in Your Phone

If you haven't signed into the TalkingPoints for Families app, you will receive messages from teachers and staff members via SMS text. When you do, make sure to save their number in your phone for easy access!

*For iPhone: Tap the phone number at the top of the message, tap Info, tap Create New Contact.*

*For Android: Tap the phone number at the top of the message, tap Add to Contacts, tap Create New Contact.*

#### Benefits of Using the App

While you can use TalkingPoints entirely through SMS, there are several benefits to downloading and using the app. You can [change your language preference](#), enable [shared messaging](#) to keep all family members informed and use [text-to-speech functions](#) for hands-free communication. In addition, TalkingPoints offers the following:

- [TalkingPoints Ed 101](#): Defining US Educational Terms for Families - The US education system has many terms and acronyms that families who are not directly involved in a career in education are not likely to know. This feature identifies US educational terms for families that appear throughout messages.
- [Help Me Understand](#) - Instant understanding support for families! Help Me Understand provides guidance for families to better understand the context, terminology, and general content of a message with the push of a button.

It's your choice how you want to receive these messages, but the app offers additional features that can enhance your communication experience. [Download the app](#) to explore these benefits.

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### TalkingPoints Help and Support

If you have any questions or need assistance, the TalkingPoints support team is ready to help. Contact us using the "App Support" option in the app settings or email our Family Support team directly at [family@talkingpts.org](mailto:family@talkingpts.org).