



**Teachers Involve Parents in Schoolwork**  
**Interactive Homework**  
**TIPS-Transitions**

These interactive “TIPS-Transitions” activities engage students with a family partner in conversations to prepare for the transition to high school.

*TIPS-Teachers Involve Parents in Schoolwork* is a research-based approach called “interactive homework” that enables students to share information and ideas at home with a parent or other family partner. TIPS activities are designed to reinforce students’ academic skills in a specific subject or to provide opportunities for students and their families to discuss important issues in school life—such as the transition to high school.

There are 4 TIPS-Transition activities that may be implemented by the English or Social Studies teachers in your school. The activities cover general information on high school, the importance of good attendance, the importance of a Grade Point Average (GPA), and the importance of passing every course.

The following simple protocol can be useful to administer, discuss, and collect the TIPS activities.

1. Select English OR Social Studies teachers of students in grade 8 (rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders) who elect to use the TIPS-Transition activities with all students in their classes. This could be done in conjunction with other transition-focused activities. Some schools invite the counselor in to talk about the high school transition in conjunction with these activities.
2. TIPS activities are sent home weekly. The four TIPS-Transition activities may be sent home, one per week, during the spring (April or May).
3. Teachers are encouraged to take at least 5 minutes on the due date to discuss the completed assignments and collect the students’ work.

TIPS-Transition activities will help students and their families take a few minutes to talk together, reflect on important changes ahead in high school. The activities aim to help students make a successful adjustment to high school and succeed in grade 9.