



Utah PTA

everychild.one voice.



Granite SCHOOL DISTRICT  
From here, anything's possible.

# Parent to Parent

News for Special Education Parents in Granite School District!

ISSUE # 1

OCTOBER 2014

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Parent Portal |

Upcoming Events |

Soft Skills Curriculum 2

Executive Functioning 2



Mark Your Calendar!

## Granite School District Parent Portal



If you have a student in Granite District, we want you to know about all the great tools available in the Parent Portal. The parent portal is an online site intended to provide detailed information for parents about their enrolled student in Granite District.

The portal provides parents with information about their students progress. From the portal you can access your child's current grades and progress reports.

You can also access a detailed list of assignments and the score your child received. You can see any assignments that might be missing.

As a parent, you can also monitor attendance or times your child was late. Another cool feature is that you can access past transcripts and standardized test scores.



Through the portal, you can sign up to get E-mail updates on when your student is absent or tardy, when work is missing, and if they fail assignments. These tools can help parents to stay informed helping your children experience more success.

The parent portal also grants parents access to Canvas. This is a place where teachers can post detailed information about their class. It may include items such as assignments and projects, Power-Point lessons, lesson overviews, resources and upcoming events. If your child forgets their homework, be sure to check Canvas to see if the assignments are posted!

In order to get into the new Parent Portal Gradebook you will first have to Register at <https://portal.graniteschools.org> and click on Gradebook Parent Portal registration. Follow the steps it takes you through (there is a guide you can get from your school if needed). The guide can also be found at:

[schools.graniteschools.org/.../06/Granite...District-Parent-Portal.pdf](https://schools.graniteschools.org/.../06/Granite...District-Parent-Portal.pdf)

Once you set up your user name and password in the portal, in a supported Internet browser, enter the URL:

<https://gb.graniteschools.org/portal/> then click on the icon for gradebook in your portal you just set up. Once you get in, you will sign in and then you will have access to all the tools!



## Upcoming Events!

### From Homework Horror to Homework Happiness

Are you struggling to help your child with his or her homework? If so, this workshop is for you! This session will focus on realistic and practical ways parents can take some of the pain out of homework! Learn how technology can help parents to support their children to get organized, study effectively and monitor their child's progress.

**Thursday, December 4, 7:00-9:00 PM**  
Utah Parent Center  
230 West 200 South, Suite 1101  
Online Registration: <http://conta.cc/Zoq78a>

### From "NO Where" to "KNOW Where" Transition to Adult Services

The transition to adult life can leave parents feeling they are "NO Where"- totally lost! Get to "KNOW Where" by learning about transition planning and related issues. We will also discuss how to prepare your teen to participate in the transition planning process.

**Wednesday, January 7**  
6:30-8:30 PM  
Granite Education Center, D-102  
2500 S. State Street, South Salt Lake  
Online Registration: <http://conta.cc/1ASnfvE>

# Check out these resources from the UPC!

*These resources have been provided to you by the Utah Parent Center (UPC). The UPC does not represent or endorse any particular service or point of view. These resources are provided as an informational resource ONLY. We encourage readers to personally research each resource.*

## Free Materials Available to Assist Young Workers in Strengthening “Soft” Skills

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy now offers two free career development resources designed to sharpen the communication and other “soft” skills of young workers, both with and without disabilities.

The “Skills to Pay the Bills: Mastering Soft Skills for Workplace Success” series includes a classroom-style curriculum and a set of videos with an accompanying discussion guide. Both resources are targeted at youth, ages 14 to 21, in both in-school and out-of-school environments. The curriculum comprises modular, hands-on, engaging activities that focus on six key interpersonal skills: communication, enthusiasm and attitude, teamwork, networking, problem solving and critical thinking, and professionalism. The video series also addresses these six themes and can be used separately or as a complement to the curriculum. Mail-order DVDs of the videos include a guide with “conversation starters” to help spark discussions among youth about the importance of interpersonal skills to career and personal success.

Youth service providers, educators and others who help young job seekers prepare for employment can access the “Skills to Pay the Bills” curriculum and video series on ODEP’s website at [www.dol.gov/odep/topics/youth/softskills](http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/youth/softskills) or order them in hard copy, free of charge, at <http://promotions.usa.gov/odep.html#youth>.



## Find Us on Facebook!

Stay up to date on upcoming events, and meet other parents in Granite with special needs kids! Look for “Granite Parents of Special Needs Students”

## Helping your Child with Executive Functioning

**Executive function is a set of mental processes that helps us connect past experience with present action.**

People use it to perform activities such as planning, organizing, strategizing, paying attention to and remembering details and managing time and space. These are skills and processes each of us use every day to:

- Make plans
- Keep track of time and finish work on time
- Keep track of more than one thing at once
- Meaningfully include past knowledge in discussions
- Evaluate ideas and reflect on our work
- Ask for help or seek more information when we need it
- Engage in group dynamics
- Wait to speak until we’re called on
- Make mid-course corrections while thinking, reading and writing



If your child struggles with these things, there are ways to help! To learn more download the free e-book “Executive Functioning 101”. This book gives practical advice to parents on what executive functioning is and how you can help. Go to : [www.ncl.org/images/content/files/executive-functioning-101-ebook.pdf](http://www.ncl.org/images/content/files/executive-functioning-101-ebook.pdf) to learn more!