

AFTRA-SAG ACADEMIC SUGGESTIONS

When you and your child make the decision to pursue a career in the performing arts, you must take into consideration the effort involved in balancing of your child's academic life with the realities of being a professional actor. When your child begins to work on a regular basis, the *AFTRA-SAG Young Performers' Handbook* suggests that you address the following issues with his/her school:

1. What is the school's policy on attendance? Will this absence be classified as excused?
2. Who should be the primary contact at the school (principal, assistant principal, classroom teacher, guidance counselor)? Will the parent or the on-set teacher be the school liaison?
3. How will daily assignments be obtained (by mail, telephone, picked up by parents)? How can assignments and completed work be exchanged most quickly between the school and the working minor?
4. Will specific assignments be issued on a daily or weekly basis? If the minor will be working for an extended period, can advance work or extra credit assignments be provided?
5. Can duplicate sets of in-class textbooks, teacher's guides, lesson plans, and lecture notes be provided for the teacher on the set?
6. Who will develop and administer any necessary tests?
7. Who will be responsible for evaluating daily work assignments, quizzes, end-of-chapter tests, and periodic examinations, and for determining grades?
8. Is physical education required? What can be an acceptable substitute?
9. What subjects must be modified to accommodate the limitations imposed by the production situation? (Science labs, performance classes? Can written work be substituted, and if so, what?)
10. How much flexibility and what options do the set teachers have in supplementing or providing alternate assignments?

Parents should take an active role to make sure that quality academic standards are maintained on the set. The responsibility for your child ultimately rests with you—and your child.