



Advocating for your Child

Where do I advocate for my child?

Your advocacy efforts can
impact your child's
education
(and other kids, too!):

- in the classroom
and their school
- at the school district level
- at the state level
- at the federal level

Know your message:

- the key issue and
3 key points for support.
- why this issue is
important to your
child/school/district.
- what you'd like the
Teacher, Principal,
Superintendent, or
Legislator to do.
- what you are
willing to do?
- THANK them for
their time.

How do I advocate for my child?

In their classroom/school:

- Introduce yourself to and get to know your child's teacher.
- Share information about your child that will be helpful for the teacher to know.
- Volunteer in the classroom or chaperone a field trip.
- Always attend open house night and parent-teacher conferences.
- Connect with other parents: join the PTA!
- If there's an issue, start a conversation with the teacher first.
- Keep a record of your correspondence.
- Avoid the blame game and know your rights.

At the school district level:

- Attend school board meetings.
- Get to know your school board members - they are likely parents (or past parents) within your district.
- VOTE in local elections that will appoint school board members.
- Introduce yourself to the school Superintendent.
- Ask to be a part of any committees to give a parent perspective on district issues.

At the state level:

- Get to know WHO your State Representative and State Senator are through the Michigan.gov web sites.
- Do your homework. What committees does your legislator serve on, what issues are of particular interest.
- Meet with legislators: at their home offices in your district, or attend state and national legislative days.
- Support legislators who support your cause. Volunteer behind the scenes. Vote for them!

At the federal level:

- Know WHO your Federal Legislators are;
- Go to: www.senate.gov and www.house.gov
- These websites will indicate WHO your state senator and /or State House Representative is, what committees they are on, and their voting history.
- Review the Health, Education, Pension and Labor Committee - who is on it, their party affiliation, voting history, committee meeting schedule, etc.
- www.govtrack.us - a useful website that offers the same information as above, but also allows one to set up email or text notifications about activity within committees or legislators
- Schedule a visit with your federal legislators when they are at their home office, or better yet, be sure to schedule a visit if/ when you are in DC.

Questions? We'll try and help but if we can't we'll certainly put you on the right path to answers!

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