

Tips for Communicating with Legislators

Remain professional and respectful

Remember the protocols of addressing a member of the legislature

- Governor (last name)
- Senator (last name)
- Representative (last name)
- Be personal

Let the legislator know whether or not you live within his/her district or if you teach within the legislator's district

- Tell the legislator a little bit about yourself
- Look for common ground
- Provide the data/facts

Use information from the fact sheets

- Highlight a key piece of information
- Provide examples from your personal experience with students
- Stay on topic

You only have a brief moment to get your point across

- Be polite and firm
- Don't let the subject change during the discussion
- Be positive

Your purpose is to deliver a message not debate

- Don't burn bridges
- Remind the legislature how the issue impacts students and learning
- Don't be defensive - stick to the facts
- Ask . . .

Ask for support on the issue

- Ask for support on a specific bill if you have it
- Ask what will you support
- Wrap it up

Don't take up too much time

- Thank the legislator for his/her time
- Follow

Send a thank you note

- Send additional information
- Invite the legislator to your school