



2015 WASB LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CONFERENCE



Things Your School Board Can Do to Help You Engage With Your Legislators

- **Adopt a board policy that establishes a legislative program.**
- **Identify a Legislative Contact, or a key person or committee, to track legislative issues and communicate the school board's position.** (Make sure to inform the WASB of the name of the key person or committee chair.)
- **Identify three to five legislative priorities and a timetable for communicating them to legislators and others.**
- **Put your legislators on your school newsletter distribution list.**
- **Visit your legislator's website and subscribe to your legislator's e-newsletter.**
- **Follow your legislators on social media** (e.g., "like" them on Facebook, "follow" them on Twitter, etc.)
- **Invite your legislators to speak at a back-to-school event. Send notices to the media about the event and the legislators who will attend.**

(Whenever your legislator visits your district or its schools make sure to take pictures and post them on your district's website, Facebook page or Twitter account.)

- **Request that your legislators prepare and present a proclamation in honor of School Board Appreciation Week.**
(This annual commemoration occurs in early October.)

(Whenever your legislator visits your district or its schools make sure to take pictures and post them on your district's website, Facebook page or Twitter account.)

- **Invite your legislators to a school board meeting.**

(While they are at the school, take them on a school tour and arrange for them to meet with concerned parents and students. Make sure to take pictures and post them on your district's website, Facebook page or Twitter account.)

- **Invite your legislators to visit your schools.**

(Make sure to show off state-funded programs and highlight programs that need increased funding. Alert the media and your community that your legislators will be in town for a "listening and learning" session. Make sure to take pictures and post them on your district's website, Facebook page or Twitter account and send copies to your legislators.)

- **Join with your business partners in the community and invite your legislators to learn about career preparation opportunities and partnerships in your district/tour your career and technical education facilities.**

(Whenever your legislator visits your district or its schools make sure to take pictures and post them on your district's website, Facebook page or Twitter account.)

- **Invite your legislators to attend a school concert or play.**

(Whenever your legislator visits your district or its schools make sure to take pictures and post them on your district's website, Facebook page or Twitter account.)

- **Attend your legislator's local "office hours" or listening sessions.**
(Invite parents and community members who support public education to join you.)
- **Adopt a board resolution on a particular legislative priority or proposal and send it to your legislators.**
(The resolution can be in a letter format.)
- **Attend WASB Day at the Capitol event** *(occurs in mid-March of odd-numbered years).*
- **Set up a roundtable discussion with community members on school and state budget issues with your legislators.**
- **Testify at a Joint Finance Committee hearing on the state budget bill** *(usually occurs in March-April of odd-numbered years).* **Make sure your legislator gets a copy of your testimony.**
- **Contact your legislators to express support or opposition to the budget approved by the Joint Finance Committee at the state level** *(in late May or June of odd-numbered years).*
- **Thank legislators for their supportive budget vote, where applicable** *(in July of odd-numbered years).* **Write a letter to the editor if you are particularly pleased with a stance your legislator took on behalf of public schools.**
- **Attend the WASB Legislative Advocacy Conference** *(held in early November).*
- **Attend the State Education Convention in Milwaukee** *(held in mid-January)* **to learn about legislative issues.**
- **Testify before a legislative committee that is holding a hearing on an issue of importance to your district. Make sure your legislator gets a copy of your testimony. Try to visit with them.**
- **Meet with your legislators or candidates-elect** *(in November of even-numbered years following the General Election).* Lay the groundwork for the next legislative session.
- **Invite your legislators to meet with your business official to go through your district's revenue limit worksheet.**

(Whenever your legislator visits your district or its schools make sure to take pictures and post them on your district's website, Facebook page or Twitter account.)

- **Ask your legislator to present your school with a flag that has flown over the State Capitol.**

(Whenever your legislator visits your district or its schools make sure to take pictures and post them on your district's website, Facebook page or Twitter account.)

Things Your School Board Can Do Either Alone or With Other School Boards/Districts

- **Hold a candidate forum for legislative candidates.**
- **Organize a regular monthly legislative breakfast and invite legislators.**