

Advocacy Action Steps

Actions for individual board members

- Introduce yourself to your elected representatives by phone, email or letter and request a personal meeting. Present yourself as concerned constituent, fellow elected official and information source on education.
- Write a guest column or send a letter to the editor to local newspapers.
- Sign up to receive communications from elected officials. Listen to their messages and provide information and reaction to support or challenge what they say.
- Become a member of **Kids PAC** (see Resources - Kids PAC), a Political Action Committee established by the OSBA Executive Committee to give board members the opportunity to belong to a PAC whose membership is aware of the problems facing boards of education and whose goals are aimed at dealing with those issues.
- Respond to “**Call to Action eAlerts**” (see Resources - Call to Action) when requested. When necessary, the OSBA Legislative Division requests that members contact certain legislators, state board members, etc. to address critical issues impacting public education. The Legislative Division also asks for member feedback as they prepare testimony for or against legislation and advocate a position in interested-party meetings.
- Attend OSBA seminars, meetings and webinars offered by the Legislative Division.

Actions for local boards of education

- Make certain your board of education appoints one member, at the January organizational meeting, to serve as its district **legislative liaison** (see Resources - Legislative Liaison). Legislative liaisons are an important part of OSBA’s legislative advocacy program.
- Include a regular item on your board meeting agenda to review current state and federal issues and discuss their impact on the district and the board’s response.
- Encourage formal and informal public input, public comments at board meetings, hearings and community listening events at schools and other locations in your district.
- Consider joint meetings with other districts or organizations with similar goals (other education groups, local government, businesses, child and family services) to review district positions, learn about other interests and seek common goals and strategies.
- Become involved in or create your own grassroots initiative. Familiarize yourself with OSBA’s publication “**Effective Advocacy for School Leaders,**” (see Resources - OSBA Effective Advocacy for School Leaders) which includes nine steps and detailed action steps to help school board members and administrators become strong advocates for their school districts.
- Participate in the **OSBA Legislative Platform** (see Resources - OSBA Legislative Platform) resolution process. The Legislative Platform reflects the legislative goals and beliefs adopted by members and it conveys to legislators, policymakers, the public and the media, OSBA’s positions on issues. It is used to guide the association’s advocacy efforts.