



Board members as political and community advocates

Discussion questions

Advocacy is simply communicating on behalf of public education with policy makers who appropriate resources that affect district operations. Informing and persuading in favor of positions that benefit public education, lifelong learning, excellence and equity is an important responsibility of district and board leadership.

What specific questions can the board use to reflect on its advocacy practices and are there recommended action steps that could start a board member on the path of effective advocacy? How does advocacy impact student achievement?

Advocacy discussion questions

As a board of education ...

- How do we reach out to local legislative agencies?
- How are we involving ourselves with and supporting the Ohio School Boards Association statewide advocacy program?
- How do we participate in the National School Boards Associations national legislative advocacy efforts?
- How do we encourage, support and acknowledge legislative support for the district's vision, mission and goals?
- How do we respond to proposals at the state level when we don't see alignment with student achievement goals?
- How do we help legislators know how their actions impact or align with the district's educational needs and implementation plan?

References

McKay, A. and Newcombe, J. (2002). *Aligning Resources for Student Achievement*. Alexandria: National School Boards Association, pp.22-23.

