



FIVE FAST FACTS

Effective advocacy

Advocacy: the act or process of advocating or supporting a cause or proposal.

Advocates for public education will continue to be called on to defend education as an important investment in Ohio's future. The education community will be compelled to demonstrate the effectiveness of public schools both in delivering high-quality educational services to students and in managing declining resources.



Your role as an advocate for public education is more important than ever. OSBA urges members to spend time speaking with local legislators and building relationships. Remember, you were elected as a leader in education. You have clout and should serve as an information resource for your legislators. It is crucial that legislators have the right information when making decisions that impact public education.

The following are five simple suggestions on how every local board member can make a difference and advocate for public schools.

1. Stay informed and become informative.

Provide OSBA with your email address and request to receive OSBA's Facts in a Flash email. Read the Legislative Report in the OSBA Briefcase. Facts in a Flash and the Legislative Report will keep you updated on what's happening at the Statehouse.

2. Respond to OSBA calls to action and e-alerts.

OSBA periodically emails alerts on important legislation or actions being taken by the legislature that require follow up with your local legislators. All it takes is a phone call to your legislator's office explaining the impact the legislative proposal will have on your district. OSBA will supply you with the information necessary for you to take action.

FAST FIVE FACTS ON EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY

RESOURCES

OSBA BillTracker database
[www.ohioschoolboards.org/
billtracker](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/billtracker)

Effective advocacy for school
leaders
[http://links.ohioschool
boards.org/33658](http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/33658)

3. Meet with your legislator and establish a line of communication.

Don't wait for a call to action before setting up your first meeting with your local legislator. Simply request to meet with them either in your legislative district or at his or her Columbus office to discuss what's happening in your school district. Establish a means of communication (email or cellphone number) in which you can contact them with vital information when needed.

4. Testify before a House or Senate committee.

It sounds harder than it actually is but when necessary, school board members will be encouraged to come to Columbus and tell their story before a General Assembly committee. This is one of the most effective ways to convey your advocacy for or against a legislative proposal. OSBA legislative staff can explain the steps required and show you how easy it really is.

5. Contact OSBA legislative staff.

Whether you have questions on a specific bill or are looking for a solution to advance your district's needs, the legislative staff is here for you. It also is helpful to speak with the legislative staff when you communicate with legislators so that information can be shared to provide both you and OSBA a complete advocacy picture.



Ohio School Boards Association

8050 N. High St., Ste. 100
Columbus, Ohio 43235
(614) 540-4000
www.ohioschoolboards.org
facebook.com/OHschoolboards
twitter.com/OHschoolboards

*OSBA leads the way to educational
excellence by serving Ohio's public
school board members and the
diverse districts they represent through
superior service, unwavering advocacy
and creative solutions.*

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