

TIPS FOR ENGAGING YOUR Indiana Legislators About Education



Following these simple tips will assist in a successful dialogue with your legislators regarding education topics.

Who?

- Visit iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/ to find legislators in your area.
- In addition to your legislator, **contact** the chairman for the:
 - Senate Education and Career Development Committee
 - House Education Committee
 - Senate Appropriations Committee and School Funding Subcommittee
 - House Ways and Means Committee
 - Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee
- You can find all committee chairmen/members at iga.in.gov/legislative/2020/committees/.

What?

- When contacting legislators about education and education finances do the following:
 - **Be Concise** - Initial communications should be brief and include your name, your school, and the topic you want to discuss. Clearly explain, provide data, and solutions when contacting legislators.
 - **Be Confident** - Do not be afraid to contact legislators about a topic; they serve their constituents and Indiana.
 - **Respect Opinions** - Education is a common topic at the Statehouse and there are many different opinions. Mutual respect should be given if there is a topic that results in a disagreement.

When?

- Contact legislators in a **timely** and **relevant** manner.
- If the topic you wish to discuss is being heard in a committee, being voted upon, etc. then it is the best time to contact legislators.
- Follow the education bills moving through the legislature; do not wait until the legislative session is over to contact legislators.
- You can find all education related bills for the current session at doe.in.gov/legaffairs or <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2020/bills/>.

Why?

- Legislators in charge of education and education funding committees should hear from **educators in the field**.
- Teachers, administrators, etc. have a powerful **voice** for education, **USE IT!**