



NC Stakeholder Engagement Group NC Legislative Advocacy Guide



Name			
Address			
Districts	<i>Senate District</i>	<i>House District</i>	
Senator	<i>NAME</i>	<i>EMAIL</i>	<i>PHONE</i>
Representative	<i>NAME</i>	<i>EMAIL</i>	<i>PHONE</i>

You can find your representatives at
<http://www.ncleg.net/representation/WhoRepresentsMe.aspx>

Meeting with Legislators

1. Before the Meeting

- Call to make an appointment either in your home district or Raleigh.
- If asked what you would like to discuss, give a short answer, like “substance use disorder program funding”.
- Know the issues! Visit our website for explanations of key education issues and fact sheets, but don’t get bogged down in details.

2. At the Meeting

- Arrive a little early, be polite, and stay calm.
- Clearly state your issue, why it’s important, and what you want your legislator to do about it. Use personal stories!
- Don’t get into a debate and don’t make things up, It’s ok not to know an answer to a question!

3. After the Meeting

- Always follow-up with a thank-you note and summarize what you discussed as a way to remind them of commitments and deadlines for addressing your concerns!



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Calling Legislators

1. Before the Call

- Be sure that you know the bill number and what the bill seeks to accomplish before discussing it.
- Write down one or two “talking points” about why you support or oppose a particular bill.
- Consider adding a brief, but substantive personal story about how the bill would affect your family, school or community.

Making the Call

- When staff answers, be very pleasant! They are on the firing line all day. Don’t be surprised if you can’t talk to your legislator, so developing a positive relationship with staff is important.
- Keep it short: introduce yourself and identify yourself as a constituent and briefly go through your “talking points.”
- Leave your contact information! Ask for a follow-up response.

Writing Legislators

Tips & Tricks

1. Identify yourself and why you are writing.
2. Explain your position and why you are concerned.
3. Restate what you’re asking the legislators to do and why.
4. Sign the letter and include your address!

Notes:
