



Arlington

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

More Than a Remarkable Education

Tips for Meeting With State Legislators and Their Staffs

- Reach out to your own state legislators before reaching out to representatives and senators from other districts.
- Don't expect that you will be able to meet with a legislator directly. More than likely, you will be asked to meet with members of a legislator's staff. Lawmakers often rely on staff to help formulate positions on specific issues.
- Be prepared. Be knowledgeable about the issue and anticipate questions. It is not enough to simply know the talking points. You need to understand the subject matter if you are going to be persuasive.
- Be realistic in your message to lawmakers. Do not exaggerate.
- Let the legislator and his or her staff know if you are speaking on behalf of a group, such as a parent–teacher organization, union or homeowners' association.
- You can try to make an appointment at a legislator's district office. You don't need to travel to Austin to meet with legislators and/or their staffs. Lawmakers are often in their district offices on Friday through mid-day Monday. Note: After February, lawmakers will be spending more time in Austin and less time in their district offices.
- If you are visiting the Capitol, be sure to wear comfortable clothing and shoes.
- Print out Capitol floor plans so you will know where to go when you get to Austin.