Year-round Advocacy

Ideas for engaging legislators

All politics is local. We need to connect at the local level with our legislators to give them a connection to our local districts and schools. Call it grass roots if you want to, but legislators need to see the faces of our teachers and students when they make decisions in Frankfort that affect public education.

1. Ask a local legislator to donate a flag to fly over one of your schools. Ask if they would like to deliver the flag to the school. Take their picture with students when they deliver and put it on your webpage or in the local paper, tweet or Instagram it.
2. Ask a legislator to read to elementary kids. Take pictures for webpage, and paper; tweet/Instagram.
3. Invite legislators to speak to middle and high school students about the branches of government, the legislative process, civics classes in general etc.
4. In a ballgame with crosstown rivals, invite a legislator who represents both schools to be the guest of honor. Recognize them at halftime. Pictures with both coaches and/or teams.
5. Invite legislators to a BOE/SBDM/faculty meeting for updates.
6. Recognize legislators at local events (festivals, carnivals, etc.) by giving them something with the district or school logo on it. This will be something they can wear the next time they are back in your community.
7. Arrange for your local education cooperative, large district, or school to invite multiple legislators to a policy breakfast or lunch where they can get their message out to many people at once. Invite multiple districts to participate.
8. Invite legislators to participate in a school fundraiser (golf scramble, trivia night, etc.).
9. Find opportunities to reach out and contact legislators with a “thank you” or “we appreciate your efforts” as often as you can. Even if you hear of them doing something outside of education, be the first person to let them know you appreciate their work.
10. Send them notes of appreciation on school letterhead or with pictures of your students or staff (if you can’t get legislators to your building, take your building to them).
11. Plan trips to Frankfort with leadership groups or civics classes; schedule time with your legislator for tours/meet and greets.
12. Ask legislators if they would like to communicate with your parents using school/district newsletters, social media, One Call, etc. Perhaps give them a column to write during the legislative session?
13. If/when your district or school uses funding that we know has been on the chopping block, send updates on how it has been used and what positive results have come out of it. (PD, Technology/textbooks, Read to Achieve, Preschool, etc.).
14. If you have new facilities or are starting a new program, invite legislators to visit your district/school for a personal tour or explanation of the program.
15. Look for opportunities for legislators to do any of the above activities but also to participate electronically using Skype, Zoom, Facebook Live.