

10 ways to Advocate for Quality Education Without Being a Lobbyist

1. Find out the names and contact information for all of the State representatives and senators who represent your school district (those whose districts are within your school district boundaries).
2. If you are new to the district, send a letter to each of your representatives and senators, introducing yourself and telling them you look forward to working with them on the educational interests of your district.
3. When you have large school events, invite your legislators to attend.
4. When legislators attend your school events, always make sure to recognize them and thank them for coming.
5. Whenever you have school events and legislators and other community members are present, make it a point to talk about the good things going on in your district—e.g., achievement scores going up, how the additional funding has made a difference
6. Attend the USA|Kansas Day at the Capitol.
7. Commit yourself to meeting with your State legislators at least once during the legislative session. You can make this part of the USA|Kansas Day at the Capitol. Talk to them about at least one issue important to your district; for instance, how the teacher shortages are impacting your district. (USA|Kansas will help you with talking points, if you like.)
8. Let the executive director of USA|Kansas know of your willingness to get more involved in legislative advocacy – providing testimony on an issue, contacting the legislators in your area at critical times in the legislative process, etc. (USA|Kansas will provide support to you for this—assist in writing testimony, prepare a basic message for action alerts, etc.)
9. Read the book, *Horton Hears a Who*, and remember that it takes all of our voices, in unison, to make important things happen...to put our issues over the top.
10. Write down the following quotes and take them to heart:

Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.
~ Margaret Mead

Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation.
~ Robert F. Kennedy