



An Introduction to Legislative Advocacy

State and federal legislation has a direct impact on the choices and decisions that are made locally. By getting involved and making your voice heard in Madison and Washington, D.C., you can help to shape laws, rules, and regulations before they are implemented.

As a school board member, you have more influence than you realize. You can speak to lawmakers as one elected official to another. Not only do you share many of the same constituents, but you have direct experience and stories to help legislators understand how decisions *they* make will impact the decisions *you* make.

No one else represents both the children and the taxpayers of your district. No one else is better positioned to tell your district's story based on personal knowledge and experience, the strongest and most persuasive argument one can make. If you don't tell your district's story, who will?

The WASB Government Relations (GR) team advocates for the [WASB Legislative Agenda](#) and the policies adopted at the annual [WASB Delegate Assemblies](#), but we are only as strong as our members. We encourage you to get involved as an advocate for your district. We'll provide resources and regular updates so you can be the most effective advocate possible and communicate regularly with state and federal officials.

Get to know how your board makes decisions about legislative advocacy and consider volunteering to help your board with this important work.

MEMBER SERVICES

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| Stay Informed | Follow the WASB Legislative Update blog , read the <i>Legislative Update</i> weekly electronic newsletter sent each Friday, and attend training events including workshops, the <i>Legislative Advocacy Conference</i> and the biennial <i>Day at the Capitol</i> . |
| Get Answers to Your Questions | The WASB GR team includes two in-house lobbyists who work for you. They write weekly Legislative Updates, send out action alerts, meet with legislators and testify. |
| Contact Lawmakers | Respond to the WASB action alerts you receive about key legislation and encourage your fellow board members to do the same. Go to www.legis.wisconsin.gov to find contact information for your state and federal representatives. Contact them whenever you have a concern about an issue and to thank them when appropriate for supporting pro-public education initiatives. |