Educating your state elected officials about the issues that are important to you is one of the best ways to help influence their policy positions. Providing your representatives with relevant, accurate, and timely information allows them to make more informed decisions. By partnering sound information with persuasive arguments, you have an effective method to help shape your officials’ views.

In many cases, a highly effective strategy is to show your governor and state legislators real-life examples of how a policy affects their constituents. For example, giving officials the opportunity to interact with beneficiaries of a program is an excellent way to influence their positions. Illustrating the human impact of a policy is critical to advocacy.

Here are examples of actions you can take to help educate your officials about the facts and impact of the issues most important to you, your students, and your school.

**WAYS TO EDUCATE YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS**

- Invite them to a special event your school is hosting.
- Host policy panels and invite them to participate as an expert or as a guest.
- Keep them well-informed of news stories that feature your school.
- Send them school newsletters and information about what is happening at your school.
- Provide an opportunity to tour and interact with a hands-on learning experience (clinics, moot court, trial advocacy, etc.).
- Share AccessLex resources with them (printed information, white papers, reports, etc.).

**WAYS TO ENGAGE YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS**

- Call the office of your governor and state legislators to provide your informed positions.
- Email your governor and state legislators to concisely explain your positions.
- Invite them to speak on campus (opening day, commencement, special events, etc.).
- Utilize social media to include them in important discussions or sources of information.
- Reach out to the offices of your governor and state legislators to request a meeting with them or their staff.
- Attend a community meeting or town hall where they will be present.
- Share your positions with local media (letter to the editor, opinion piece, etc.).

For more information on how to get involved, contact us at Policy@accesslex.org.