



HOW TO CALL YOUR STATE LEGISLATOR

This is an effective way to make your voice heard. It's easy and doesn't take much time.

WHY DO IT?

Many legislators hear from corporate lobbyists and their party leadership more than they hear from voters in their districts. Making regular phone calls (every two weeks) to share your concerns about how Harrisburg is supporting (or not supporting) public education allows you to share with lawmakers the local impact their decisions are having on your children's public schools and your community.

The vast majority of Pennsylvanians, regardless of party, support quality public schools. There is support for strong public education among political representatives and leaders of both parties as well. Calling your lawmakers is a way to show them that voters in their home districts are watching them and will hold them accountable for their votes on issues related to our public schools.

A SAMPLE CALL

"Hi this is Susan Pennsylvanian, I am a constituent of Representative Handshaker. My address is 123 Laurel Street in Everytown. I am calling because I strongly support public education and I am very concerned about the impact that inadequate state funding is having on our local schools and on our community.

My 2nd grader's class went from 22 to 28 kids this year and the school board raised property taxes. Students are getting less individual attention and local taxpayers are paying more. I am calling to ask Representative Handshaker to go to Harrisburg to fight for more state education funding for the children and taxpayers he represents."

TIPS FOR A GOOD CALL

- When you call, introduce yourself and identify yourself as a constituent--share your address.
- Be pleasant to the staff.
 - Don't expect to speak to your representative.
- Keep it short.
 - A 2-3 minute call is usually plenty to say WHAT you SUPPORT (or oppose), WHY, and to give your contact information and ask for a response.
- Try to sound like yourself.
 - State your topic and say WHAT you care about, SUPPORT or OPPOSE and WHY.
- Give an example of your personal experience when possible.
- ASK for a FOLLOW UP RESPONSE
 - You should also plan to follow up with your representatives in a reasonable timeframe.