

Meeting with your Legislator

Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education



Art Delaune, Chair

February 2020 Council Meeting

Before the Meeting

- ⦿ Make sure that you have everything you need:
 - Talking Points
 - Business Cards
 - Camera
- ⦿ Find the **team leader** for your group
 - The team leader is in charge of bringing the legislative packet & taking notes
- ⦿ Decide **who** will discuss each topic
- ⦿ Arrive 5-10 minutes early
- ⦿ Check in with staff

In The Meeting

- Introduction
- Give the Legislative packet to the Legislator
- Explain the issues
- When you are done talking, ask for a group photo with the Legislator
- Thank them for their time & support of the Council

Introductions



- ⦿ Mention if you live in his / her district
- ⦿ Make a personal connection, if any
 - <http://akleg.gov/> Provides some basic information on both members of the House & Senate
- ⦿ Explain why you are involved with the Council

Explaining The Issues

- ① Locate the information on the issue in the packet
- ② Briefly describe the issue
- ③ Ask if they have questions or if they need more information and let them know that one of the staff will be contacting them.

Meeting Do's & Don'ts

Do

- ⦿ Turn off your phone
- ⦿ Stay on topic
- ⦿ Watch your time
- ⦿ Pay attention to the Legislator/ team members
- ⦿ Take notes on things to follow up on
- ⦿ Show appreciation

Do Not

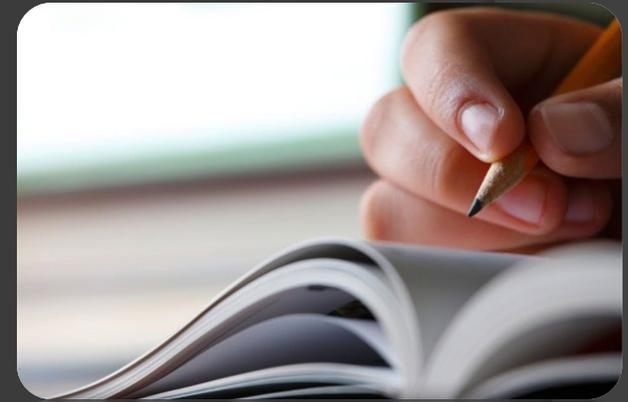
- ⦿ Bring up unrelated topics
- ⦿ Speak too long
- ⦿ Provide answers to questions you don't know
- ⦿ Interrupt Legislator or other group members
- ⦿ Text/ talk on the phone
- ⦿ Argue with the Legislator

After the Meeting

- ⦿ All teams go to REACH art studio (CANVAS) after meeting to debrief
- ⦿ Debrief with GCDSE staff member (Lanny)
 - How did the Legislator feel about the position papers?
 - Was any follow-up information requested?
 - Did you learn any interesting facts about the Legislator/Legislative aide?
- ⦿ Complete the feedback form found in your packet and return to Lanny
- ⦿ Text any photos with the Legislator to Ric or Kristin so that we can post on our Facebook page

Keys to Successful Meetings

- ◎ If you have a smart phone, take photo of the appointment schedule
- ◎ Review position papers
 - Do you feel comfortable explaining each issue?
- ◎ Read Legislator bios
 - Which Legislators are you meeting with?
- ◎ Practice with the position papers out loud
 - Have you adapted them to be your own?



Legislative Packets

- ◎ 4 position papers
 - DD Shared Vision
 - Supported Decision Making
 - HCBS is Cost Saving
 - HCBS Efficiencies
- ◎ GCDSE FY19 Annual Report
- ◎ Key Platform (3)



Role Play

- ① Pick a partner who has experience meeting with legislators
- ① Pick who will be playing the role of the legislator
- ① Introduce yourself and go over the priorities with them
- ① Now switch roles

Questions:

