



Tips for Being an Effective PTA Advocacy/Legislative Chair

--by Edén Mack, legchair@SCPTSA.org

Get informed

1. Make sure you are listed in the WSPTA membership database state PTA office as advocacy/legislative chair to get WSPTA and SCPTSA e-mails.
2. Follow SCPTSA, Seattle Public Schools announcements, board meetings and communications.
3. Attend PTA regional meetings and trainings.
4. Sign up for WSPTA legislative communications
 - a. <http://wsptagrassroots.blogspot.com>
 - b. <http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/index.html>
 - c. Advocacy listserv: (Advocacy/legislative chairs will be auto-enrolled in this listserv)

Engage your PTA leadership and members

1. Make an “advocacy update” an agenda item at every PTA board meeting. (And, make sure your PTA budgets for leg assembly costs, transportation for Focus Day and other expenses)
2. Circulate advocacy news and action items. Ask for space in your PTA newsletter or on your website for an advocacy column, and share information and action items with your members.
3. Ask your board and members what sorts of issues they need help solving.

Join other voices and advocate

1. Join the SCPTSA legislative committee and help get Seattle PTA voices heard more effectively.
2. Attend school board member community meetings to learn about current issues and share concerns of your PTA.
3. Keep SCPTSA legislative chair informed of issues that are impacting your school and PTA, and look for opportunities to collaborate.
4. Attend the annual WSPTA legislative assembly in October and VOTE for legislative priorities.
5. Attend Focus Day in Olympia in January.