



What To Expect In A Legislative Meeting If You Have A Meeting Scheduled

- 1) Expect that you'll meet with a staffer.
- 2) Take a couple of minutes to introduce yourself, your position and PMEA. Explain what PMEA is and how it not only represents music educators but more importantly – music education students.
- 3) At this point, it's a conversation. Feel comfortable. Read and study the asks prior to your visit. If you have a personal story that fits in with an ask, please share that.
- 4) You'll feel where the conversation is going but do your best to make mention of all of the asks.
- 5) You will receive a packet at registration with the asks and other information in it to leave behind.
- 6) Take a notepad with you as you'll want to take notes.
- 7) If you're asked a question and you don't know the answer – that's OK. Tell them that and explain that you'll get back to them.
- 8) DO NOT discuss other issues while you are there. You are representing PMEA on this day.
- 9) DO NOT get into an argument. Just present our asks and stay positive and on message.
- 10) You are not there to make a "deal." You are presenting information asking for consideration and support.
- 11) Do not criticize current or past government decisions. Stay positive and present our ideas as positive ideas.
- 12) Dress professionally.
- 13) **Show the Best Communities for Music Education document and explain to the staffer that we'd like their office to send a letter of congratulations to schools in their district.**
- 14) Take a camera. Legislators love photos with their constituents. Share your photos with PMEA.

AFTER THE MEETING

If there was anything particularly noteworthy, please let us know about it. Either email the info to Abi or Mark.

abiyoung@pmea.net

advocacy@pmea.net

If the legislator/staffer asked for more info, let us know and we'll find it so you can pass it along.

Follow up with a phone call or email to thank your legislator or staffer.

If you didn't meet with your actual legislator, make an appointment in his/her home office to meet with him/her.



If You're Just Delivering Packets to Offices

It's possible that you'll get to talk with a staffer or the member of the general assembly. If not, that's OK - you can leave our documents with the receptionist.

Briefly explain that you're there with PMEA and you are providing policy asks that you would like the member to consider. If you're able to have a longer conversation, feel free to go into more detail on the asks.

No matter who you talk to – make sure to show them the Best Communities document and ask that they consider sending a letter of congratulations to the districts that are located in their legislative district.

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