

HOW TO BE a Virtual Activist

Your activism will mean a better, more equitable recovery for our students, educators, and communities. Gather your colleagues today and make your virtual activism plan.



BEST PRACTICES FOR YOUR VIRTUAL LOBBYING MEETING

SETTING UP A MEETING

- Reach out early.
- Call *and* email your legislator to request a virtual lobby visit.
- Be clear about the topic you want to discuss.
- Tell them how many members will be coming.
- Clarify if you or the legislator's office is sending out the video link.

BE PREPARED

- Know how much time you have with your legislator.
- Have an agenda with roles prepared.
- Identify everyone on the call. Add your worksite or town to your Zoom identification.
- Identify your local and the number of educators you represent.
- Keep the number of virtual attendees small (6 or less).

MAKE A PERSONAL CONNECTION

- Be personable, gracious, and friendly.
- Tell them about your lived experience as an educator.
- Be specific and direct.
- Build trust. Don't livestream the meeting.
- Pin down your "ask" or request. You want to leave with an answer.
- Be sure to follow-up with any requested materials.

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

MAKE A PHONE CALL

Call MSEA's Hotline at 866/617-4263 and follow the prompts to your legislator's office line. Be polite, confident, and focused on one issue. Make your ask. Voicemail? Leave a message.

SEND EMAIL

Visit mgaleg.maryland.gov to find your legislators' email addresses. Use your personal experience to connect to your issue. Be confident and clear on your ask.

SHARE YOUR STORY

Your personal stories from the frontline are exactly what legislators need to hear to truly understand what teaching and learning is like during this pandemic.

[Click here](#) to share your experience (and photos and videos). Your story may be used in MSEA testimony to elected leaders (with your permission, of course)!

Remember:
In-person lobbying, like in-person teaching, is more effective. Let's get back to in-person lobbying when it is safe!

REPORT BACK TO MSEA!
Assign one person to complete and submit MSEA's [Lobbying Report Form](#).

MSEA



QUESTIONS? CONTACT YOUR MSEA LOBBYIST
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