

# IEA Back Home Lobby Days 2012

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Every decision that impacts the professional life of each IEA member is a political decision. That is why it is crucial that IEA members participate in the 2012 Back Home Lobby Days effort.

## **What are “Back Home Lobby Days”?**

On Back Home Lobby Days, IEA members can directly contact and lobby their state representatives and senators by meeting with the legislators in their home districts when the legislature is not in Springfield.

Legislators understand how important it is for them to meet with their constituents. The legislator’s home district makes for a setting in which IEA members can outline what they want and expect from their elected officials.

## **Why is IEA having Back Home Lobby Days?**

One of the biggest reasons for “back home” lobbying instead of member action at the Statehouse is that the opportunity to have an effective, impactful meeting will be greatly limited in 2012.

The State Capitol Building is undergoing major renovations, severely limiting the access of our members to the Capitol and to their legislators. Lawmakers will be extremely hard to visit and the number of people who can enter the capitol at any one time will be restricted.

The advantages of back home lobbying include allowing IEA members more time to meet with their legislators to express their concerns on our critical issues.

## **When should members lobby?**

Legislators are not in session until the first week of February and are back home several weeks prior to the March Primary. Any time legislators are not scheduled to be in Springfield is a good time to

schedule a meeting in the home district with the people who make the laws that control teaching and learning conditions.

IEA will be making announcements throughout the 2012 legislative session about home district lobbying opportunities.

## **How will back home lobbying work? What resources are available?**

The IPACE committee is encouraging members to use existing teams that consist of their Region Chair, UniServ Director and Grassroots Political Activist (GPA) to schedule and attend meetings.

We believe that home district lobbying will result in a positive experience for our members and provide legislators with the opportunity to hear first-hand the interests and concerns of their constituents.

There will be limited resources available, based upon need and upon request, to ensure that our members are unencumbered in their efforts to meet with their legislators. Regions may request up to \$300 to cover the costs of food, beverages and facilities. No transportation cost will be reimbursed and receipts must be provided.

The request for funds will need to be made in advance to the IPACE Executive Committee using the [\*\*Back Home Lobby Fund Request Form\*\*](#).

Below is a step-by-step guide to assist you in having a successful meeting with your legislator, along with the answers to some key questions:

# Back Home Lobby Days 5 easy steps

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## 1. Plan a back home lobby meeting

**Who - are you going to invite to participate in the meeting?**

- ✓ Region chair
- ✓ Grassroots political activist
- ✓ UniServ director
- ✓ Local members

**What - is your goal for the meeting?**

- ✓ To make direct personal contact with your elected officials
- ✓ To tell personal stories about the issues affecting you
- ✓ To ask for their support or opposition on issues that are before them this legislative session

**When - are you going to hold your meeting?**

- ✓ Legislative session doesn't start until Jan. 21
- ✓ Legislators are out of session the week of Feb. 13-17
- ✓ Legislators are out of session the week of March 12-16
- ✓ Legislators' spring break is the first two weeks of April

**Where - are you going to meet with the legislator?**

- ✓ Legislative district office - preferable
- ✓ IEA region office
- ✓ Local establishment

## 2. Issues to discuss at your back home lobby meeting

IEA Fact Sheets on key issues can be found on the [IEA website](#).

- ✓ Pensions
- ✓ Revenue
- ✓ Gaming
- ✓ Graduated Income Tax
- ✓ TRIP and CIP

- ✓ Teacher quality
- ✓ Subcontracting
- ✓ Driver's education
- ✓ Health insurance

### **3. Agenda for your back home lobby meeting**

#### **Sample meeting agenda**

- ✓ Introductions: 3 minutes
- ✓ Explain why you asked for the meeting, your goals, your expectations: 5 minutes
- ✓ First educator story tells story: 3 minutes
- ✓ Second educator tells story: 3 minutes
- ✓ Deliver and describe materials: 3 minutes
- ✓ Make the "ask": 5-10 minutes
- ✓ Review next steps: 3 minutes
- ✓ Thank you: 1-minute

### **4. Helpful resources for your back home meeting**

#### **Legislative contact information - To find your state legislator and their contact information:**

- ✓ Log into the IEA web site – [www.ieane.org](http://www.ieane.org) – members only
- ✓ Under the Legislative tab, click on Contact Your Legislators
- ✓ Go to the Elected Officials tab – if you know your legislator, go to Member Search if you do not know your legislator, go to My Representatives and enter your (zip code
- ✓ You will find your legislator and their contact information
- ✓ **IEA fact sheets** (For a list of available IEA fact sheets: Log into the IEA web site – [www.ieane.org](http://www.ieane.org) – members only
- ✓ Under Legislative tab, click on fact sheets

#### **Grassroots Political Activists - For a list of current GPAs:**

- ✓ Log into the IEA web site – [www.ieane.org](http://www.ieane.org) – members only
- ✓ Under Legislative tab, click on IPACE

## **General Assembly legislative session calendar**

To view a month by month schedule of legislative session days: Log into the Illinois General Assembly's web site – [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov)

- ✓ Under Senate section, click on schedule
- ✓ Under House section, click on schedule - Ten Golden Rules of Lobbying
- ✓ To view a guide of helpful lobby tips: Log into the IEA web site – [www.ieanea.org](http://www.ieanea.org) – members only
- ✓ Under Legislative tab, click on IPACE

## **5. Follow-up to your Back Home Lobby Meeting**

### **With your legislator:**

Make sure to provide any materials you promised to provide to the legislator.

- ✓ Send the legislator copies of published pictures or stories or links to the website where they appear.
- ✓ Schedule another meeting, if that was discussed.
- ✓ Send a thank-you note - handwritten or email.

### **With the IEA:**

We want to hear about your meeting and what your legislators conveyed to you.

- ✓ Fill out the Back Home Lobby Day Response Form
- ✓ Mail it to Illinois Education Association, 100 E. Edwards St., Springfield, IL 62704, Attn. Government Relations
- ✓ Email it to [IEAlistens@ieanea.org](mailto:IEAlistens@ieanea.org)