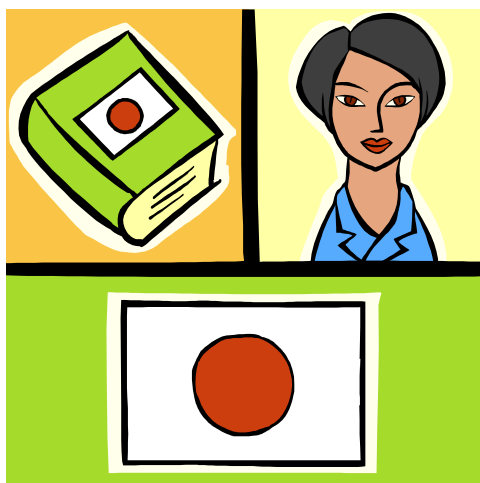


Make a Difference for Children and Education



Ten Things You Can Do to Become an Education Activist

1. **Get Informed!** The information you need about issues and policymakers is at your fingertips. Go to the IEA Website (www.ieanea.org) and click on the section labeled "legislative." There you will find information on how a bill becomes a law, biographies of your legislators, the complete IEA legislative platform, and more.
2. **Sign up to receive the Capitol Report and IEA Insider!** To get a weekly update of the latest legislative news, subscribe to the Capitol Report by please e-mailing jim.reed1@ieanea.org and for important information you can use, subscribe to the IEA electronic newsletter, the *Insider*, by enrolling at this weblink: <http://www.ieanea.org/subscribe.aspx>
3. **Join a Legislative Contact team!** You and your colleagues will make a big impact on lawmakers when you contact them as a group during the Legislative Session. Here are a few suggestions on how to organize a team and actions for a Legislative Contact Team. Please contact your assigned lobbyist if you have further questions.
 - Each contact team should consist of a GPA, a UniServ Director, your Region Chair and 4 - 6 IEA members willing to take regular actions as requested and report outcomes back to the Government Relations Department.
 - Once organized each contact team should hold an initial meeting with their targeted State Senator or Representative for introductions and to review issues.

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- Following the initial meeting each member of the contact team will receive the Capitol Report, a weekly email from government relations, with legislative updates and directions for further action.
 - The GPA, or designee, should email a weekly update of contact team findings to their assigned Government Relations staff member.
4. **Participate in an IEA Lobby Day!** IEA members from throughout the state come to Springfield to lobby their legislators. Plan to participate!
 5. **Take part in a Blizzard Day!** If you can't travel to Springfield for a Lobby Day, contact your legislators by phone, fax, or email on special days set aside for long-distance lobbying.
 6. **Take a Legislator to School!** Every decision that impacts your work is a political decision and the best way for policymakers to make informed decisions is to visit school buildings and classrooms. When you act as a guide, you can be sure these decision makers will get the message you want delivered.
 7. **Contact an elected official!** Through the Legislative Action Center on the IEA web site (www.ieane.org), you can easily email your state and/or federal elected officials anytime you want. Phone calls or faxes are also easy ways to tell legislators what you think about proposed policies.
 8. **Vote!** Every election, whether for U.S. President, Congress, the Illinois State Legislature, local school board, or local referendum, is important for Illinois' schools. Don't miss your opportunity to make a difference at the federal, state, and local levels.
 9. **Support pro-education candidates!** In most major elections, local IEA members recommend pro-education candidates for elected office. Go to the IPACE section of the IEA web-site to find out more about how IEA recommends candidates. Be part of the process. Give them your support and your vote.
 10. **Share your knowledge!** No one is more qualified than you on the topic of education. Talk to your friends and neighbors. Ask them to support policies that support our schools.