

FAQS

You don't need to be an expert – just be yourself.

How can I prepare to speak confidently with elected officials?

Confidence comes from preparing your story, not memorizing facts.

You can:

- Think about one experience at your school that matters to you
- Practice saying it out loud once or twice
- Use notes – reading is okay
- Remember: you are the expert on your own experience

Feeling nervous is normal. Most students are.



What does an effective advocacy story sound like?

A strong advocacy story is personal, specific, and honest.

Example:

“My name is Alex, and I’m a middle school student at a public charter school. My school helped me feel confident speaking up in class. Having a safe, well-supported school building helps me learn better, and that’s why school funding matters to me.”

You don't need big words – just your real experience.

What should I do – and not do – when meeting with policymakers?

✓ Do:

- Be respectful and polite
- Listen carefully
- Speak honestly
- Thank them for their time

✗ Don't:

- Argue or interrupt
- Feel pressure to know everything
- Worry about being perfect

If you don't know an answer, you can say: "I'm not sure, but I'm happy to follow up."