

## ● What is Advocacy?

Advocacy is effective storytelling to impact change.

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## ● Components of effective advocacy:

■ Storytelling - Who are you? What is the challenge you are facing?

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I attend \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
a public charter school in Colorado.

**Challenges could include:** funding, transportation, access to extracurricular activities, building or classroom needs, etc.

- **Ask** - What is your vision for your education future and the future of those students who will follow you?
- **Audience** - How can your audience be a part of the solution? What can your legislator DO to support this vision (and why should they care

## Why is advocacy important for charter schools?

Charter schools are public schools, but they often:

- Receive less funding for buildings
- Have fewer chances to share their needs
- Rely on students and families to explain what school is really like

*Advocacy helps make sure charter students are seen and heard when decisions are made.*

## Do student voices really make a difference?

Yes.

Across the country, students have:

- Spoken at meetings
- Shared stories about their schools
- Helped adults understand how policies affect students

*When students speak up, leaders learn what policies look like in real life.*

## How long are meetings with legislators, and how should we plan?

Most meetings last 10-15 minutes.

A simple plan:

- Introductions: 1-2 minutes
- Student stories: 5-8 minutes
- Key message or ask: 2-3 minutes
- Thank you: 1 minute



*Not everyone has to speak. Listening matters, too.*

★Remember

You matter  
Your story matters  
Your voice matters