

● What is Advocacy?

Advocacy is effective storytelling to impact change.

● 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*

Advocacy starts with sharing your story.