

Missouri ACTE

Mentor-a-Legislator Tips



More than ever before, there needs to be communication between educators and state and federal legislators. You can make a difference.

Missouri and US Senators and Representatives have given positive support to Career and Technical Education issues over the years. It is important that we continue this positive relationship in years to come.

As a participant in the Mentor-a-Legislator program, you should be willing to positively participate by doing some of the following:

1. Send several emails, faxes, hard copy letters, or make a few phone calls a year including friendly, complimentary emails, and emails giving your support to legislative issues to thank you letters at the end of the year. Sincere thank you notes or letters can be the biggest relationship builder.
2. Invite your legislator to your school for a friendly tour. This invitation could occur during their vacation or while they are in recess. Invite the press; take their picture for promotional purposes. Ask them to serve on your advisory committee.
3. Be willing to react to urgent or important emails by quickly communicating your support of issues to legislators. You will be informed of urgent times where action communication is needed immediately or within hours. Your communication is extremely valuable in these times.
4. Possibly attend fund raising or events where the legislator is attending. Tell your legislator's aide or local Chamber of Commerce that you want to be kept informed when the legislator is in town.
5. Support more than one candidate running for an office. Sometimes it is necessary.
6. Communicate with the Senator's or Representative's aide and develop a relationship with them. You can have a great deal of impact by getting to know your legislator's aide. Get to know them in friendly emails or phone conversations. You can become one of their most trusted allies. Send a card of thanks or some other item of appreciation.
7. Keep current of issues that affect career and technical education.
8. Have your students send communications to let the legislators know of their career success as a student of career and technical education.
9. Be willing to serve on a committee or testify.
10. Be there in times even when no action is needed.
11. Attend the Missouri ACTE Legislative Day and the ACTE National Policy Seminar.
12. Other ideas.

You will be recognized for your participation in this very important program at the Missouri ACTE 2003 Summer Conference.

The goal is to communication with as many US and Missouri senators and representatives as possible.

They are waiting to hear from you.