Get on your Soapbox

By Will Wiese, Advocacy Chair MO PTA

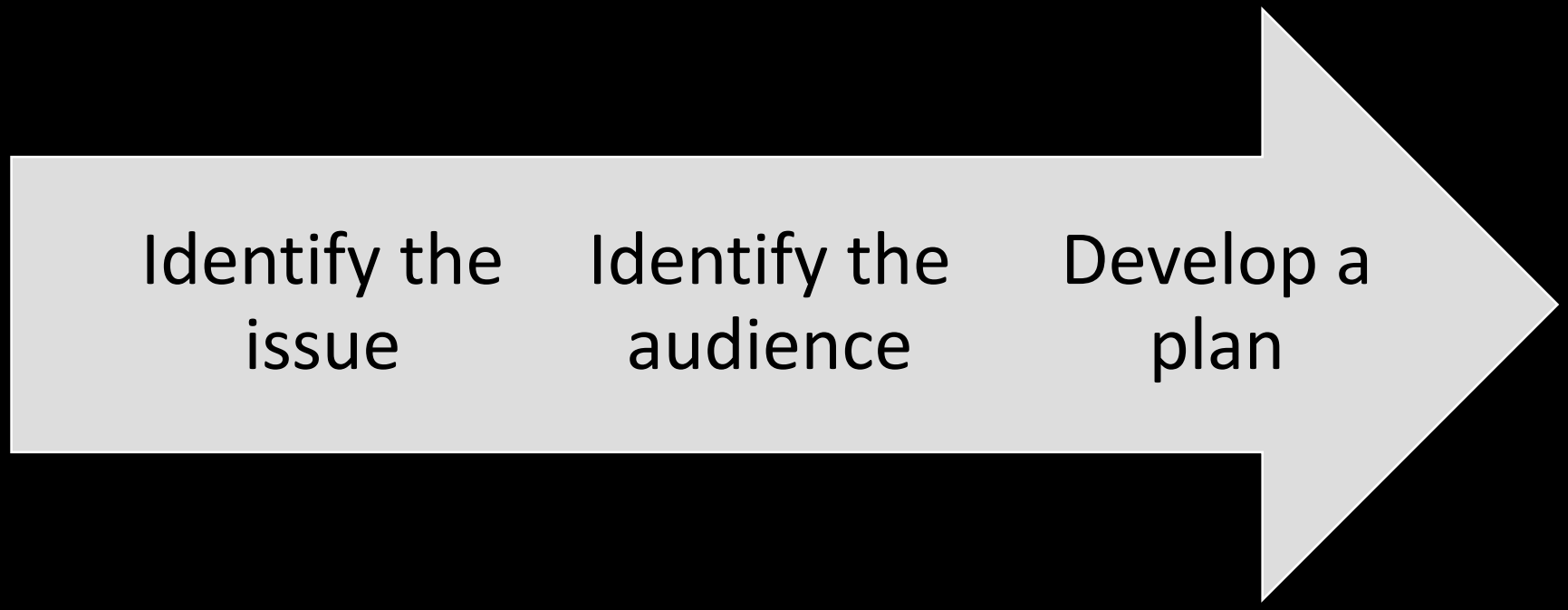
- MO PTA Student Representative 2 years
- MO PTA Advocacy Chair 2 years
- Selected to attend National PTA Youth Advocacy Summit
- Implemented the student led campaign for #18in18

What is advocacy

ADVOCACY

The act of supporting an idea or cause.

How do you get started?



Promote your cause
Take ask to appropriate officials
Evaluate

ASK: Raise the CAPS!

Congress must act in a bipartisan way to raise the fiscal year (FY) 2020 budget to avoid automatic spending cuts to education and protect existing Federal investments in education.

116th Congress

Committees

116th Congress: The House

116th Congress: The Senate

Preparing for Hill Visits

Formulating a persuading argument

Meeting

Ask: Increase CAP funding

Fact:

- Without increase in funding NO program in HHS will be able to be funded.
- How can our students be competitive on a global stage when we underfund public education?
- May states are struggling to meet their budget obligations causing strains or cuts to public education at the state level. Increased funding from the National government will keep school equitable across the country.

Story:

- I graduated from a school district that receives a large amount of its taxes from several big corporations including GM. Our high school course booklet looks like a community college course book. Each high school has new STEM labs and many varied courses in science, art and the humanities. The neighboring school district does not have any have a large corporate ta base. Its schools have old and outdated labs. When these students enter college they are already behind students from my district with all the labs etc. If federal funding is increased schools could afford to modernize and increase their facilities.

Questions?

Conclusion: Thank you for your time and remember to please increase CAP funding.

Meeting Debrief

What went well during your meetings?

What about your meetings didn’t meet your expectations?

What do you still have questions about after your meetings?

After the Meeting: Keep the Pressure on

@Senator/RepName Thank you for meeting with @mopta please vote to increase budget CAPS #moptaadvocacyinaction

@mopta thanks @senator/rename for meeting with us to discuss increasing the budget CAPS in the FY 2020 budget.

After the Meeting: Keep the Pressure On

Invite your Member of Congress to visit or attend a PTA meeting and/or event

Schedule to meet with the state or district office when you get back to follow up

Any Questions????

Group Activity

Group I:

Issue: Your local school district has schools that are in need of repair.
Problem: Water issues in schools, outdated restrooms, roof leaks
Ask: How could you start and advocacy campaign around securing funding to make necessary repairs?

Group II
Issue: Counselors in your school do not have the time to adequately help struggling student because they are being assigned to many other duties. This lack of counseling services could be dangerous to the safety of the school.
Distractions: acting as registrars helping students pick classes and fill in substitute teachers.
Ask: How do you alert legislators to the issue and what would a solution be?

Group III

Issue: It has been brought to your attention that many juveniles are waiving their right to counsel without having a guardian present.
Problem: This is leading to a much higher rate of incarceration. How can youth sign their rights away if a minor?
Ask: What would you ask legislators to ensure this does not happen?

THANK YOU

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