

What You Can Do to Support Your School

Here is an easy way to support your school and the statewide movement: contact your legislator. Create or join your school's advocacy committee, together with your school administration invite them to various events being held at the school, or make known your position on particular legislation that is either detrimental or beneficial to charter schools.

If a harmful charter school bill is introduced in the Legislature, it is important to let your representatives know why they should vote against the bill. Also, if a charter school bill is introduced that would make it easier to create more schools, or would make operating schools easier, your legislator should know why he or she should support that bill. Contacting your state Senator or House of Delegates Representative is one way to remind them of your support for the school and of the charter school movement, and why they too should support charter schools.

WRITE A LETTER

- Address the legislator as Honorable Representative or Honorable Senator.
- Your legislator's mailing address at the District, or at the Capitol can be found:
 - ◊At the on-line MCSN Advocacy Action Center– it's quick and easy!
 - ◊At <http://mdelect.net>
- Be sure to mention that you are a constituent– legislators are elected to respond to the needs of their constituents.
- If you are asking the legislator to support your position on a piece of legislation, identify the bill number and give specific facts to support your argument. Include personal statements- "I feel strongly about this because"
- Keep the letter to one page– be very clear and concise.
- Remember to include your name and phone number where you can be reached.

EMAIL

- Your legislator's email address can be found:
 - ◊At the on-line MCSN Advocacy Action Center– it's quick and easy!
 - ◊At <http://mdelect.net>
- Address the legislator as Honorable Representative or Honorable Senator.
- In your email message, be sure to include your name, address, and phone number
- The same tips for writing a letter can be applied to writing an email.

PHONE

- Your legislator's phone number can be found:
 - ◊At the on-line MCSN Advocacy Action Center– it's quick and easy!
 - ◊At <http://mdelect.net>
- Ask to speak to the legislator, or if he/she is not available, ask for the Chief of Staff or Education aide.
- Mention the subject of your call at the beginning of the conversation (i.e. position on a particular piece of legislation).
- Be brief, and clearly state your concerns.
- Thank your legislator for taking you call.

Take Action For Charters!

The MCSN Advocacy Action Center can be found at www.mdcharternetwork.org