

2014 New York Student Aid Alliance Advocacy Day Tip Sheet

What is advocacy?

ad·vo·ca·cy n. The act of pleading or arguing in favor of something, such as a cause, idea, or policy; active support.

Tips for Legislative Meetings:

A face-to-face meeting with your legislator is a great way to personalize an issue and give feedback as a voter. It is also a great opportunity to educate your representatives about what student aid means to you and thank them for their support.

Be a Good Advocate:

Do:

- Be on time
- Introduce yourself
- Present yourself as a polite, well-informed, well-dressed and articulate constituent
- Politely make it known that you are a voter
- Be organized and stay on topic
- Respect the legislator's schedule and end the meeting on time
- Send a thank you note

Don't:

- Be rude
- Be overwhelmed by a legislator's office or his/her presence
- Be disappointed if you meet with your legislator's staff member
- Be quiet: Make sure you tell the legislator what this aid means for you and your future or ask questions about the legislator's experiences student aid and higher education

Key Messages for Student Aid:

- Thank legislators and staff for supporting student aid
- Mention that TAP and Opportunity Programs are successful
- Tell your story: (specifically TAP, HEOP, C-STEP/STEP and Liberty Partnerships)
 - What does student aid mean to you?
 - How has it helped you?
 - What are you planning to do in the future as a career and/or graduate work? If you plan to stay in NYS, say so!