Expanded Learning Advocacy Basics

January 14, 2022
OregonASK supports creating more high-quality expanded learning opportunities through connecting **partners**, supporting **policy** change, and providing **professional development**.
Informing, Advocating, Lobbying

- Be a source of information
- Share your perspective on public policy issues (including issues that may divide candidates)
- Share examples of models that exist other places
Types of Lobbying

Direct Lobbying
Communication that refers to a specific piece of legislation and expresses a view on that legislation. (May be to a legislator, an employee of legislative body, or other government employee who participates in the formulation of legislation)

Grassroots Lobbying
An attempt to influence specific legislation by encouraging the public to contact legislators about that legislation. Would include specific legislation, reflect a view on that specific legislation and encourage the recipient of the communication to take lobbying action. This type of communication is known as a call to action.
Lobbying is NOT:

- Nonpartisan analysis
- Study or Research
- Discussions of broad social, economic and similar problems,
- Promoting and touting the success of your program
- Requests for technical advice or assistance
Do’s & Don’ts When Advocating

Don’t *Think you have to Know Everything.* It's okay to admit you don't know something.

*Don’t Burn bridges.* Work to find some sort of consensus and always leave on positive terms.

*Don’t Forget* Elected officials work for you! You should be courteous but not intimidated.
Do Your homework. Before making contact, learn key background information, what experience they have and key issues they champion.

Be specific. Tell them why you are there and what you want, be sure to mention it if you are a constituent.

Establish yourself as a source of information. Elected officials have limited time and staff...You can fill their information gap and become their "expert."

Leave them with information about your program

Follow up after a meeting.
Have a Clear Message:

Expanded Learning Opportunities that happen in Afterschool & Summer Programs support....

This is Comprehensive Afterschool

- Hands-on, project-based learning
- STEM, arts, and music
- Trusted, responsive community resource
- Career awareness, exploration, and preparation

Youth-led learning and social activities

- Culturally-relevant
- Service learning and community projects

Wrap-around and emergency supports for families

- Academic enrichment and support
- Planning and preparing for college
- Physical activity and healthy food
Share Positive Impacts...

Expanded Learning Programs provide more time for deeper learning, creative spaces for hands-on projects, and opportunities for students of all ages to explore careers. Decades of research proves students who regularly participate in quality afterschool:

- Gain self-control, confidence, and social skills
- Improve school attendance, work habits, and grades
- Make gains in reading and math
- Have higher graduation rates
- Explore career paths and gain workforce skills
- Build healthy relationships with their peers and adults
- Gain self-control, confidence, and social skills
- Improve school attendance, work habits, and grades
- Make gains in reading and math
- Have higher graduation rates
- Explore career paths and gain workforce skills
- Build healthy relationships with their peers and adults
Provide Research and Reports

Afterschool in Oregon Return on Investment

- ROI Executive Summary

In Oregon, every $1 invested in afterschool programs saves $4.60 by decreasing:

- Drug and alcohol addiction
- High school dropout rate
- Healthcare costs
- Crime

Reimagine Oregon: Youth-to-Work Systems

State of Access and Equity of Afterschool in Oregon (Jan 2020)
*Invite them to Visit and Learn More*