

TIPS TO ENGAGE LOCAL POLICYMAKERS WITH YOUR NAF ACADEMY

NAF's Policy Team engages policymakers, educators and community leaders in policy conversations around college and career readiness and work-based learning on various levels of government to influence policies that benefit NAF academies and students. However, public policy begins at a very local level with school boards, cities/counties, state departments of education, and local business organizations. This is precisely where NAF Academies can have the most influence! We encourage NAF Academies and districts to engage their local policymakers in the programs and experiences they are providing to students and to share ideas on how to improve educational and workforce policies in their local communities.

Here are some ideas for engaging with your local government officials:

- Share news about your academy and students to local policymakers' offices! Did you have any award winners? Interesting WBL experiences? Snap a picture and send a short description to your local officials so they are aware of the great stuff happening in their district.
 - Elected officials (i.e. state senators and representatives) usually share news from their district through newsletters and social media and they always need content to showcase.
- Have a great student showcase or WBL event coming up? Consider inviting local policymakers to attend these events and meet your students.
 - Invitations can be as simple as a short letter or phone call inviting the official to join the event. Be sure to offer them a few minutes to provide remarks!
- Is your school/district already connected to local policymakers? Identify existing connections to local officials your school already has and expand the official's engagement to your NAF academy.
 - For instance, if a state senator regularly attends a school or district event, consider asking if they would be willing to extend their stay to visit the NAF Academy as well.
- Engage your WBL partners and see if they are open to inviting policymakers to join events and learn about your partnership bringing workforce and education stakeholders together.
 - Do you have an interesting job site visit coming up? Ask the WBL partner to consider allowing local officials to attend as well.
- Are your advisory board members already engaged in policy conversations? Leverage your advisory board and their connections to showcase your academy and students.
 - You can also use these connections to share any state/local policy hurdles you face and elevate solutions to those challenges.

Find your Federal and State Representatives at [usa.gov/elected-officials](https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials). Contact the NAF Policy Team at policy@naf.org.