



ENGAGEMENT TIPS

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Engagement is **critical**. Approximately 5.4 million children depend on Texas public schools! It's your privilege and responsibility to contact Texas legislators about issues important to you. While the Legislature meets only once every two years for regular sessions, legislators' offices are open year-round.

STEPS TO TAKE TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

- Determine who represents you.
- Make phone calls.
- Visit legislators in their Austin and local places.
- Write emails and letters.
- Know the basics of the legislative process.
- Share stories of the good things you see happening in Klein ISD – with legislators, within your community, and even on social media.

www.news.kleinisd.net

HOW TO FIND OUT WHO REPRESENTS YOU

- Generally speaking, you only want to contact your own legislator on issues or bills, as legislators are most likely to respond to their own constituents who elect them.
(Exception: It is OK to contact all committee members when the committee is hearing or voting on a bill of interest to you.)
- The Texas House of Representatives "Who Represents Me" website provides House, Senate, and congressional representative information.

Visit: <https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov>

- Remember to contact statewide elected officeholders, such as the governor and lieutenant governor when appropriate.

Information and tips provided by tasanet.org

For more information, visit: kleinisd.net/klc



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ENGAGING FOR OUR STUDENTS, OUR SCHOOLS

REMINDERS:

- Be professional and courteous.
- Be brief: "Make it fit on a bumper sticker."
- Don't answer if you don't know – credibility is key.
- Express gratitude to legislators for supporting and passing House Bill 3.

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MAKING CONTACT VIA PHONE

- This is the best way to make your opinion count.
- Get to the point - explain who you are and why you are calling. Include the bill number.
- Tell your legislator how you would like them to vote on the matter.
- Be prepared. Have your facts straight and your talking points ready. You only have a few minutes to get your point across.
- Be ready to answer questions. Do not expect a one-sided conversation. Anticipate questions your legislator or the staff member could ask you and have answers. If you are asked a question to which you do not know the answer, say you don't know but offer to follow up.
- Follow up with an email referencing your conversation. Reiterate your points and provide any additional information you'd promised.

WRITING EMAILS OR LETTERS

- Briefly introduce yourself, include the bill number and your contact information.
- Explain your position clearly and concisely. If the issue is complicated, attach additional material and your telephone number so the staff can call you if additional information is needed.
- Avoid form letters/emails. Share your personal experience. Use real-life examples to illustrate your points.

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