

# How Can I Begin to Advocate?

## How to Advocate at the Local Level:

1. Host BHSM at your school.
  - a. Interactive bulletin board: Ask the SLP, etc.
  - b. Make a visual display of various methods of communication (speaking, AAC devices, ASL, etc.)
  - c. Email quizzes via Google Forms (winner gets chocolate!)
2. Host a PD session at your school/district.
  - a. What's something your teachers need to know?
    - i. Referral process
    - ii. Evaluation/eligibility process
    - iii. Artic, language, and fluency classroom strategies
  - b. Team up with other educators or service providers!
3. Write a grant (AAC device, iPad, a training/certification, assessments).
  - a. <https://www.asha.org/uploadedFiles/Money-Talks-Handout.pdf>
  - b. <https://slpnataliesnyders.com/2017/02/how-to-write-successful-grant-for.html>
  - c. <https://www.livelovespeech.com/2017/09/7-grant-writing-tips-every-slp-needs-to-know.html>
4. Design a communication board for a local park.
  - a. Go in with a proposal and talk to your local park director
  - b. See an example of how one SLP made it happen!  
<https://www.ksha.info/pdf/communicator/Communicator-Spring-2020.pdf>
5. Advocate for higher salaries, extra benefits, or a workload model in your district.
  - a. ASHA gives you the tools you need to advocate for yourself within your school district. They even have success stories from other SLPs who were able to make changes in their districts!
  - b. <https://www.asha.org/Advocacy/state/advocacy-schools/>
  - c. <https://www.asha.org/PRPSpecificTopic.aspx?folderid=8589934681&section=Resources>
  - d. <https://www.asha.org/SLP/schools/Workload-Calculator/>

# How Can I Begin to Advocate?

## How to Advocate at the State Level:

1. **Join your state association.**
  - a. Your state association advocates for you at the state level. They meet with legislators to speak on your behalf for the needs of the SLPs and AUDs across your state.
  - b. Find your state's site here: <https://www.asha.org/advocacy/state/>
  
2. **Visit ASHA's State by State site and/or your state association's site to learn more about your state requirements and legislation**
  - a. Before you can advocate for yourself, it's important to know what issues your state is currently working on. It's also important to know your state regulations. Much of this information can be found through the website of your state association.
  - b. Find your state's site here: <https://www.asha.org/advocacy/state/>
  
3. **Campaign to serve on your state association's Executive Council.**
  - a. Serve in a leadership position by running for election to become a part of your state associations Executive Council. You will be able to experience firsthand what issues they are advocating on.
  - b. Find your state's site here: <https://www.asha.org/advocacy/state/>
  
4. **Present on a topic that is important to you at your state conference.**
  - a. Advocate for yourself and your students by speaking to fellow SLPs at your state's convention on a topic that is important to you!
  - b. Find your state's site here: <https://www.asha.org/advocacy/state/> and search for their convention's call for papers.
  
5. **Check out ASHA's state advocacy resources and toolkit.**
  - a. This site provides a plethora of information for advocating within healthcare, schools, and more. Look for topics such as health care reform, billing and reimbursement, school funding, and SLP evaluation tools.
  - b. <https://www.asha.org/Advocacy/state/State-Advocacy-Resources/>
  - c. <https://www.asha.org/Advocacy/state/stateactiontoolkit/>

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## How to Advocate at the National Level:

1. Join your national association (ASHA).
  - a. ASHA advocates on your behalf. Be sure to join in!
  - b. <https://www.asha.org/>
2. Donate to the ASHA Political Action Committee (PAC).
  - a. Provides financial support to candidate committees for the U.S. House and Senate that recognize the importance of speech-language pathology and audiology services.
  - b. <https://www.asha.org/Advocacy/pac/>
3. Sign up for ASHA's Take Action newsletter and follow them on [Facebook](#).
  - a. Use ASHA's Take Action templates to contact the senate over issues that are important to you.
  - b. <https://takeaction.asha.org/asha/action>
4. Meet with the legislative members.
  - a. ASHA gives you the tools you need to succeed! They even give you example scenarios over what to expect and how to respond.
  - b. <https://www.asha.org/Advocacy/Meeting-Scenarios/>
  - c. <https://www.asha.org/Advocacy/Become-a-Grasstops-Envoy/>
5. Campaign to serve on ASHA's Board of Directors.
  - a. Perhaps you've served on your state's executive council and now you are ready for the next step. Run for election to become a part of ASHA's Board of Directors!
  - b. <https://www.asha.org/about/governance/BOD/members/>