

Adopt-a-Legislator



WHAT TO EXPECT

- ★ Support, guidance and materials from Pre-K for PA
- ★ Direct communications on what's happening at the legislative level
- ★ Access to other adopters for networking and to discuss advocacy

HOW IT WORKS

The program starts with a simple letter introducing your program to the legislator. From there, your organization participates in at least three of the following activities (check all that interest your team):

- Contact your legislator during key points in the cycle
- Invite your legislator to a team/staff meeting at least once per year
- Meet with your legislator in his/her district office
- Ask your legislator to address program families at an engagement event
- Invite your legislator for a tour of your program at least once per year
- Attend Pre-K for PA-led legislative events/functions
- Invite the legislator to join your organization in a discussion of your yearly operating budget
- Send copies of your monthly newsletter(s) and theme-based activities made by the children in your program
- Build a team of 10-20 program/center families to call, text, or write a message to legislator at critical budget points throughout the year.

To be counted in this effort, please make contact with one of our representatives:



For support on getting started, contact the First Up Public Policy Department! Elizabeth.Ozer@firstup.org

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR

Offering a personal experience that may impact decision-making on policy that impact providers, educators, children, and families is the best way to effectively advocate on behalf of kids!

- ★ **Sign up:** to adopt your legislator!
- ★ **Look up:** your state senator and representative at www.tinyurl.com/palegis by typing in your program's address in the form.
- ★ **Hang up:** your monthly theme/activity sheet and keep it in a visible location, like the teacher's lounge, classroom wall, or cork board.
- ★ **Plan it:** by committing to an activity for the classroom each month through June. Use our suggested calendar themes or craft your own!
- ★ **Document it:** by taking photos or videos and share them with your Pre-K for PA field organizer and we'll feature your updates on Pre-K for PA's social media sites!
- ★ **Send it:** along (or drop off) projects and activities to your adopted state legislators each month. Include your own note or use the sample notes we'll provide to you.
Invite: your legislators to read to your classroom during Week of the Young Child or anytime!
- ★ **Push it:** Legislators have busy schedules. While meeting with constituents is important to them, sometimes you have to reach out more than once.
- ★ **Give thanks:** Periodically recognize and thank your adopted legislator. Extend a personal letter, include an article in the family newsletter or host a small reception for the work he/she has done on behalf of early childhood education.