

Do's and Don'ts

What do professionals need to know to keep themselves safe when advocating?

Early childhood providers who work in public school or government funded programs are able to advocate as community members and stakeholders in public education. However, they must be aware of the legal and ethical obligations that they should adhere to.

If you intend to advocate in a political space such as the Capitol (federal or state) or with legislators for a specific political issue, please carefully review your employee responsibilities within your organization and talk with your administrators about any specific rules that might apply to you.

Generally speaking, as an advocate, public school teachers and federally or state funded educators should consider the following:

Do's	Don'ts
Do canvas for a candidate or issue on your own time- not during clock hours at school.	Do not bring or distribute political propaganda for a candidate or issue to your school.
Do have a bumper sticker for a political candidate or issue on your car- AND you can even park it at school the car does not belong to the school district.	Do not talk with coworkers or families in your program about political issues or candidates at school.
Do send emails or make phone calls to legislators and lobby for/against issues from your personal email during your personal time.	Do not use your work email or phone to contact legislators or lobby for/against issues.
Do advocate on Capitol Hill (federal or state) and share information with legislators and policymakers on your own time.	Do not advocate on Capitol Hill (federal or state) on behalf of the organization that you work for unless you are specifically sanctioned to do so.
Do go to Capitol Hill (federal or state) on your own time or if you have taken time off from work.	Do not go to Capitol Hill (federal or state) during work hours unless you are sanctioned to do so.