



*Finding Your*  
**VOICE!**  
Advocacy and You





- About me
- Workshop goal
- Workshop expectations
- What advocacy means for public education
- Why PTA voices matter
- How to advocate effectively
- Closing

# ABOUT ME

- Lori Young
- 4th Generation public school educator
- 33 years in public education
- 28 years as a teacher
- 5 years in union leadership





# GOAL



The goal of this workshop is to empower PTA members to use their voices to strengthen public schools through simple, impactful advocacy.



# **BY THE END OF THIS WORKSHOP, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO**

- Understand what advocacy is and how it impacts public education.
- Recognize the power and influence of parent voices with decision-makers
- Learn four steps to effectively advocate



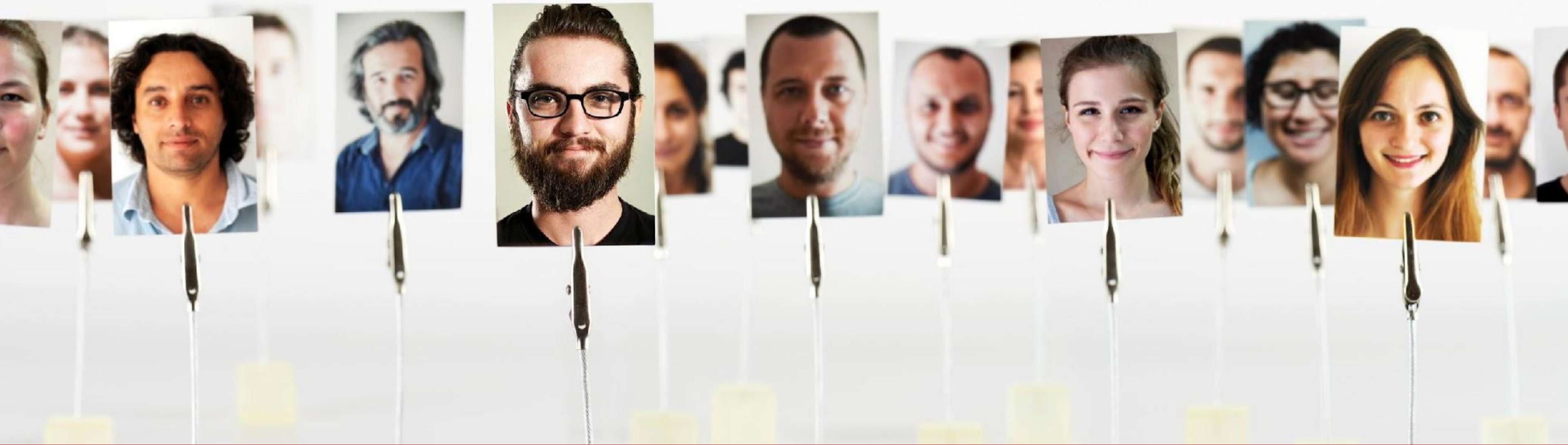
Whether it is writing to your legislators,



attending locally sponsored events, or



heading to the Indiana State House -



everyone can ADVOCATE for public education!

# What Advocacy Means for Public Education

WE MUST  
**KEEP**  
COLLECTIVE  
ORGANIZING

BECAUSE  
NO ONE  
EVER SAID.  
...  
"I REMEMBER  
MY **FAVORITE**  
LEGISLATOR"

BUDGET PROBLEMS

E



- **Advocacy is speaking up for what our students and schools need.**
- **Creating meaningful partnership between educators and parents.**
- **Examples: funding, school safety, resources, teacher support.**

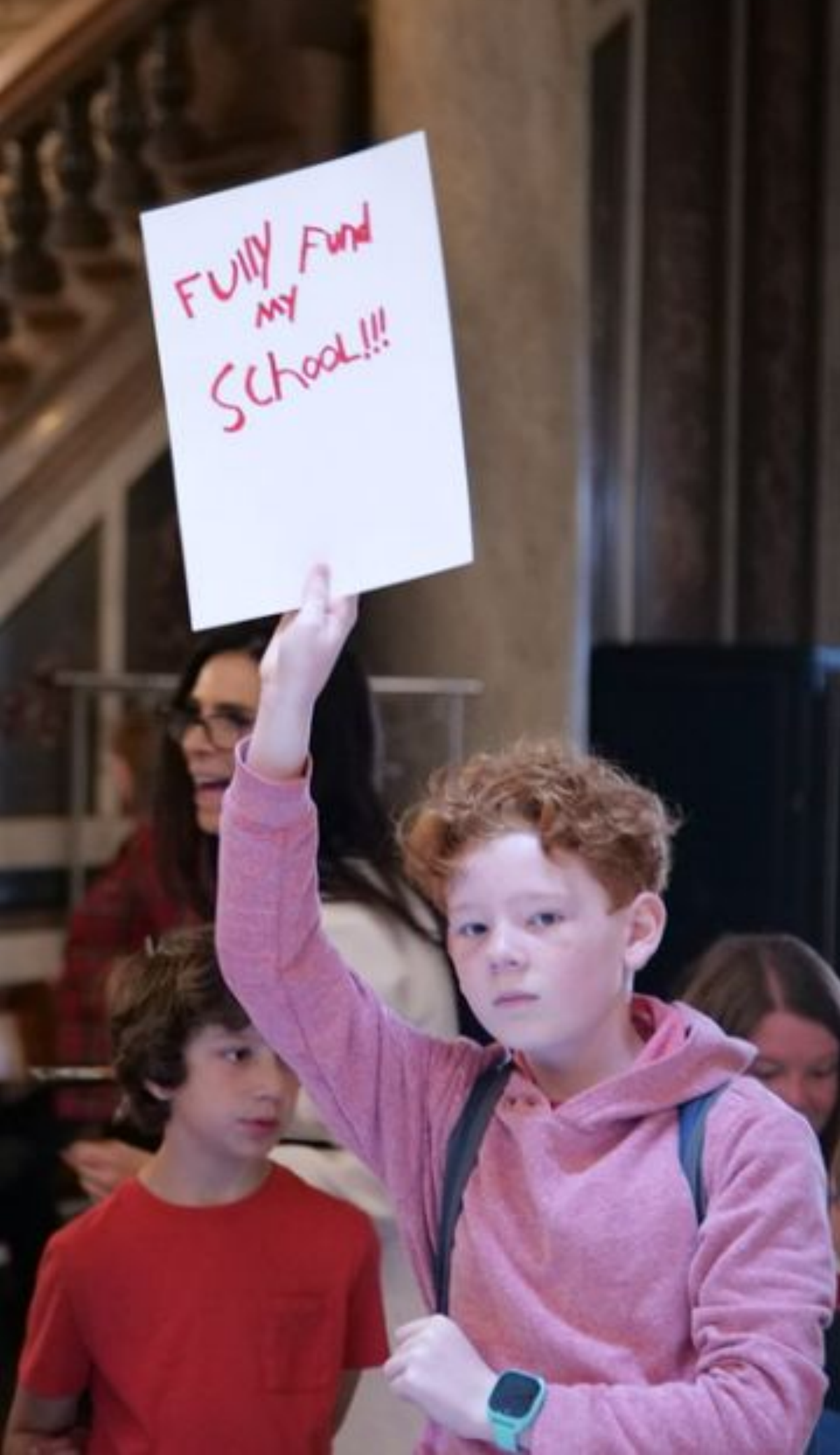


Why

PTA

Voices

Matter



- **Legislators EXPECT to hear from parents**
- **Parent voices = Credibility + Influence**
- **Direct Stakeholders**
- **Local to State Impact**
- **Change Starts at Home**

# How to advocate effectively



- ➊ Stay informed
- ➋ Build relationships
- ➌ Your story
- ➍ Take Action



# 1 Stay informed



## 2 Build relationships

- Know your legislators
- Know their interests
- Know their committees

### Find Your Legislator

Enter your home address to get your legislator information.

\* = required

Street Address \*

Please enter a complete address (Ex: 1111 E County Road 111S)

City \*

State

Zip \*

Search

Please enter numbers only (Ex:  
46140)



# 3 Plan Your Action

## Advocacy Planning Sheet: Meeting with State Legislators

### 1. Legislator Information

- Senator or Representative \_\_\_\_\_
- Democrat or Republican or \_\_\_\_\_
- Committee Assignments (if relevant): \_\_\_\_\_
- Key Issues They Care About: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Your Story

- Who you are (role/connection to education): \_\_\_\_\_
- Personal story or experience to share: \_\_\_\_\_
- Why this issue matters to you, your students, or your community: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. The Issue

- Is the bill a Senate Bill (SB) or a House Bill (HB)?    Senate Bill    House Bill
- Policy/legislation you're advocating for (bill number or topic): \_\_\_\_\_
- Brief summary of the bill: \_\_\_\_\_
- How this issue impacts educators/students in PUBLIC EDUCATION directly: \_\_\_\_\_
- Evidence/data to support your position (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. The Ask

- Specific action you want your legislator to take:
    - Support Senate Bill # \_\_\_\_\_
    - Oppose Senate Bill # \_\_\_\_\_
    - Co-sponsor Senate Bill # \_\_\_\_\_
    - Raise this issue in committee
    - Support House Bill # \_\_\_\_\_
    - Oppose House Bill # \_\_\_\_\_
    - Co-sponsor House Bill # \_\_\_\_\_
    - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Why you think this action is reasonable and necessary: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Plug it into the sentence starters:
    - = You should support \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.
    - = You should oppose \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.
- Example Only: You should support Senate Bill XYZ because it requires children to begin school at age 5, giving them more time to build early literacy and social skills.*

### 5. How do you plan to ASK?

- Email legislator     Call legislator     Meet legislator locally     Meet at State House

### 6. Anticipating Responses

- Possible concerns/questions from legislator: \_\_\_\_\_
- Your prepared responses/talking points: \_\_\_\_\_

### 7. Building Connection

- Common ground you share (community ties, values, past support): \_\_\_\_\_
- Follow-up:
  - Thank you note
  - Provide information they request
  - Invite them to a school event you are attending
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 8. After the Meeting

- Who else needs to know about this meeting? \_\_\_\_\_
- What follow-up materials will you send (email, fact sheet, data, personal note)?
- Deadline for follow-up: \_\_\_\_\_

 Tip: Keep it short, personal, and focused. Legislators hear from many people, but your authentic story + a clear ask can leave a lasting impression.



## ④ Take Action

- Use social media to highlight a positive story about public schools.
- Email or call your legislator about a specific issue.
- Attend one school board meeting, one Meet Your Legislators meeting this semester.
- Share advocacy info with another parent.
- Write down *one thing you'll do in the next 30 days*.

To download a copy of this presentation, please go scan this QR code.



– or – <https://www.evansvilleta.org/calls-to-action.html>

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