

As your group decides to engage in advocacy efforts in your state, a Public Policy and Advocacy committee may be formed. Below are suggested descriptions of such committees.

Description of Public Policy and Advocacy Committee:

This committee shall:

- Monitor public policy, state legislation, state initiatives, and department rules and regulations of possible impact on the Montessori community. (early childhood, K-12, public and private sectors, Dept. of Public Instruction, Division of Child Care, Quality Rating and Improvement System, and others as needed.
- Propose and plan advocacy initiatives for state organization; determine prioritized goals and specific action plan with timelines; oversee sub-committees, and their chairs.
- Provide communication to the membership regarding regulations and their impact; advocacy initiatives of state organization; Calls-to-Action.
- Propose, plan and implement educational campaigns which increase public knowledge of Montessori educational options in the state.

Committee Members shall have a good working knowledge of policy and advocacy. Helpful skills include:

- Research skills
- Excellent communication skills including writing
- Organizational skills
- Ability to work with a team

Proposed sub-committees include: (to be supervised by the chair of the Advocacy committee)

- Monitoring Sub-committee: 3-4 individual to monitor policy initiatives, proposed legislation, and department rules and regulations.
- Action sub-committee- Working with the chair of the advocacy committee, 3-4 individuals to prioritize issues of concern, develop specific action plans for each, and solicit volunteers responsible for each action item.
- Communication sub-committee- 1-2 individuals to liaison with the Communication committee to share information with the general membership, solicit feedback, and provide ongoing progress reports of the work of the advocacy committee, communicate Call-to-Action as needed.
- Educational sub-committee- Working with the chair of the advocacy committee, 3-4 individuals to develop a public communication campaign designed to increase public knowledge of Montessori education and options available in the state.

Special Talents or Skills to contribute to the Advocacy committee

1. Working knowledge of the state legislature and/or contacts within the legislature, especially members of the Education committee.
2. Working knowledge on grassroots engagement and advocacy.
3. Ability to create newsletters, brochures, policy papers.
4. Researchers.
5. Excellent working knowledge of Montessori education.