



## HOST AN IN-DISTRICT LEGISLATOR MEETING

In-district meetings are great ways to get to know your state lawmakers and develop your own leadership as well as the leadership of your fellow activists. They also show your lawmaker that you take the issue very seriously.

Click here to find your [state representatives](#) and your [state senators](#).

### Setting up an in-district meeting

1. [Find out who your local state representative](#) is and understand where they may stand on the issue. Find out where they are from and what committees they are on.
2. **Do a quick google search** to see what they have said - if anything - about public education.
3. **Recruit some friends to join you.** Don't make the meeting too big so you can't have a good discussion and ask questions, but showing up with more than one or two people will convey that there is a movement behind you (and there is!) *See below for tips on how to start a conversation with your friends about fair school funding.*
4. **Call the statehouse office and talk to the staffer.** Ask when the representative will be back in their district and if they can help you set up a meeting. Explain that you are a group of parents from the representative's district who are concerned about public school funding in the state budget.
5. **Pick a time and place that works for you and go!** You can have an in-district meeting anywhere. Some representatives like to meet at coffee shops or libraries. Pick a place that makes you and your team feel comfortable.

### Tips for your meeting

1. **Do some research:** Get a sense of where your lawmaker stands on the issue and what might be important to them. Did they attend a public school? Do their children? Do they own a business and worry about having a well-educated pool of employees? Facts like this can help you tailor your remarks.
2. **Make a connection:** If you have anything in common with your lawmaker, use it! Talk about it. Open the meeting by bonding and connecting. Maybe you know someone in common or went to the same school. Make sure they know that!
3. **Your representatives are just people.** Don't be intimidated by the title. Most state lawmakers are just regular people like you. Do not assume they know more about the issue than you do (unless your research shows that they are experts.)
4. **Be an expert in your own experience:** You know the most about your community and your district. Be confident in your expertise. Explain what you've seen and what could happen to YOUR district without the Fair School Funding Plan. Make it as local and real as possible.



5. **Be direct:** Make sure your representative knows exactly what you want them to do. The only way to do that is: Will you commit to including the Fair School Funding Plan in the 2026-27 state budget?

## Tips for talking to your friends & neighbors

1. **Lead with your own experience:** Explain why this matters to you. Why did you get active in All In For Ohio Kids? Tell a short story that captures your experience. For example: Did your school cut your child's favorite elective? Did the district increase the cost to play sports or participate in extracurricular activities? Are class sizes too big because the district can't afford to hire more teachers?
2. **Connect your experience to the wider issue:** In this case, Ohio's public school funding system overly-relies on local property taxes, which shortchanges most districts and unfairly disadvantages Black and brown students, and communities where families have lower incomes.
3. **Explain the moment:** This year, state lawmakers will pass the 2026-26 state budget. We need to make sure it includes the Fair School Funding Plan. Four years ago, the Fair School Funding Plan took important steps forward by changing the way the state allocates money to districts to account for their unique needs. The new Speaker of the House Matt Huffman said he sees the plan as "unsustainable."
4. **Make the ask:** Will you join me to meet with our State Rep/State Senator so we can discuss our concerns about school funding and urge them to include the Fair School Funding Plan in the State Budget?