



NEW ENGLAND
SECONDARY SCHOOL
CONSORTIUM

Engaging in Legislative Policy Conversations in Rhode Island

League of Innovative Schools

Sarah Linet

Policy Specialist, GSP

Courtney Jacobs

Senior Associate, GSP

Mark Kostin, Ed.D.

Associate Director, GSP

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Outcomes

1. Build understanding of the NESSC Theory of Action (Policy-Practice-Community Engagement);
2. Share Insight into current/upcoming legislative session and the current state policy landscape; and,
3. Support the development of actionable skills to engage in state legislative policy conversations

NESSC Meeting Norms

1. Building on and supporting one another's efforts
2. Acknowledging and encouraging different approaches as we collaborate
3. Trusting in the integrity of NESSC colleagues
4. Monitoring our air time in group gatherings
5. Communicating openly, clearly, and directly
6. Acknowledging and honoring different perspectives
7. Assuming positive intentions of all members

Opening

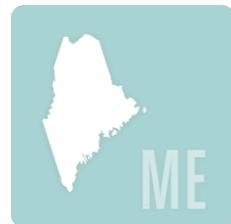
1. Find a partner - someone who you don't work with
2. Introduce yourself - name, role, school
3. Share what interests you about policy and why you are here today

How does policy impact your role, work, students?

What comes to mind for you when you think of policy?



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High
Leverage
State
Policies

League of
Innovative
Schools

School
Redesign
in Action

Leadership in Action
Data Reports
College Statements



GREAT
SCHOOLS
PARTNERSHIP



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Theory of Action

Personalized-Learning Levers

- Proficiency-based graduation
- Multiple and flexible pathways
- Learner-centered accountability



State and Regional Support Strategies

- Changes in state and district policy
- Changes in district and school practice
- Increased public will, understanding, and support



State and Regional Performance Goals

- Increase five-year graduation rates
- Decrease annual dropout rates
- Increase the share of students enrolled in two- or four-year degree programs or pursuing industry-certified accredited postsecondary certificates

Why Policy Matters

If we are going to scale practices that address equity and ensure readiness for all students across our state, we need policy that will compel, incentivize, and require schools to adopt these practice

Why Your Voice Matters

1. You are closest to the work - you have the most important perspective to share and you will be impacted the most by state education policies
2. The legislature hears regularly from professional advocates and yours would be a welcome, fresh, and grounded voice
3. While professional organizations play an important role advocating on behalf of their members, legislatures appreciate every opportunity they have to hear from the actual members of these groups

Crafting Testimony: Tips

1. Be sure to clearly state your full name, your role, your school/district, and your town
2. State your position at the beginning of your testimony
3. Build your argument clearly
4. Be succinct
5. Stick to the time limit

Crafting Testimony: Tips

6. Be factual
7. Avoid jargon
8. Make sure you understand the proposed legislation, including whether it changes existing statutes or creates new ones
9. Support your argument with evidence
10. Talk about your local context

Crafting Testimony: Tips

11. Bring written copies of your testimony (25 in ME)
12. If your arguments have already been made, don't repeat them - abbreviate/summarize
13. Close by reiterating your position.
14. Offer to answer any questions and express interest and availability to engage further
15. If you are unable to attend in person, the legislature accepts electronically submitted testimony

Let's practice!

1. Move to school/district-based groups
2. Identify policy area to lift or protect (10 min.)
3. Determine position (5 min.)
4. Develop argument (30 min.)
5. Gallery walk and feedback (15 min.)
6. Refine (10 min.)
7. Debrief (10 min.)

Next steps & resources

1. GSP sample Proficiency-, Competency-, Mastery-Based [local policies](#)
2. We're available by email or phone for support
3. Monthly email update while legislature is in session



482 Congress Street, Suite 500
Portland, ME 04101
207.773.0505
greatschoolspartnership.org

THANK YOU

Sarah Linet
Policy Specialist

slinet@greatschoolspartnership.org

Mark Kostin
Associate Director

mkostin@greatschoolspartnership.org