



## What To Expect In A Legislative Meeting

- 1) Expect that you'll meet with a staffer.
- 2) Take a couple of minutes to introduce yourself, your position and PMEA. Explain what PMEA is and how it not only represents music educators but more importantly – music education students.
- 3) At this point, it's a conversation. Feel comfortable. Read and study the asks prior to your visit. If you have a personal story that fits in with an ask, please share that.
- 4) You'll feel where the conversation is going but do your best to make mention of all of the asks.
- 5) You will receive a packet at registration with the asks and other information in it to leave behind.
- 6) Take a notepad with you as you'll want to take notes.
- 7) If you're asked a question and you don't know the answer – that's OK. Tell them that and explain that you'll get back to them.
- 8) DO NOT discuss other issues while you are there. You are representing PMEA on this day.
- 9) DO NOT get into an argument. Just present our asks and stay positive and on message.
- 10) You are not there to make a "deal." You are presenting information asking for consideration and support.
- 11) Do not criticize current or past government decisions. Stay positive and present our ideas as positive ideas.
- 12) Dress professionally.
- 13) Take a camera. Legislators love photos with their constituents. Share your photos with PMEA.

### AFTER THE MEETING

If there was anything particularly noteworthy, please let us know about it. Either email the info to Abi or Mark.

[abiyoung@pmea.net](mailto:abiyoung@pmea.net)

[mark.despotakis@progrmusic.com](mailto:mark.despotakis@progrmusic.com)

If the legislator/staffer asked for more info, let us know and we'll find it so you can pass it along.

Follow up with a phone call or email to thank your legislator or staffer.

If you didn't meet with your actual legislator, make an appointment in his/her home office to meet with him/her.