



Social Studies Teachers,

Thank you for taking the time to connect with your elected officials. It is critical that those with decision-making capabilities hear from those affected by the decisions.

Here are some tips to having a productive conversation with your elected officials.

- Identify yourself as a constituent. Elected officials like to know that the message they are receiving is from someone they represent.
- Be clear about the issue you are addressing. If possible, reference a particular bill number.
- Briefly share your personal experience. Keep it short, but also be clear about your professional educational experience and how this issue or bill would directly impact your classroom and students.
- Clearly state your “ask.” Give your perspective firmly, and ask that your elected official take a specific action.

A potential script could go like this:

Hello Senator/Representative X. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am an educator in your district, at \_\_\_\_\_ School. I am contacting you today about Senate File/House File XXXX and am asking you to support/not support this legislation. [Briefly share your teaching experience.] As a constituent and an educator, I would like you to support/not support this issue. I am an education professional and have a deep understanding of the students in my community and school, and I want you to take my concerns into consideration. Thank you for your time.

Here are a few other thoughts to consider as you contact your elected officials:

- Find out if your Senator or Representative serves on an Education committee. Senate committee lists: <https://www.senate.mn/committees>. House committee lists: <https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/committees>. They are the ones making decisions about education legislation, so your voice is evidence for their work.
- Call and send letters. It helps to make as many points of contact as possible.
- If there is a bill that you strongly oppose or strongly support, offer to testify at that bill’s hearing. You can find hearing schedules on the committees’ pages, along with contact information for the committee staffperson who handles testimonies.
- Build relationships with your elected officials and their legislative assistants. When issues come up related to social studies or education, a prior relationship will make it more likely that they contact you for feedback.

When in doubt, reach out to us at MCSS. We are used to connecting with elected officials, both state and federal, and would be happy to help you craft a message. If we don’t speak up for social studies, we can’t guarantee that anyone else will. Thank you for all that you do.

MCSS Board of Directors