

Advocacy as Service

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NHS, NJHS, NEHS, and NatStuCo are programs of NASSP

- Why Advocacy?
- What is Advocacy?
- What does advocacy teach students about service/leadership?
- Student/Youth experience with advocacy
- How to get students engaged in and introduced to advocacy?
- Q&A + idea share

Poll Time!

Have you as an advisor or your students participated in any advocacy activities as part of National Honor Society or National Student Council within the past year?

What is Advocacy?

advocate verb

ad·vo·cate | \ 'ad-və-,kāt  \

advocated; advocating

Definition of *advocate* (Entry 2 of 2)

transitive verb

: to support or argue for (a cause, policy, etc.) : to plead in favor of

// They *advocated* a return to traditional teaching methods.

// a group that *advocates* vegetarianism

Why Advocates Exist

- To highlight a problem
- To offer a solution to a problem
- To influence elected officials or other “decision makers” to fix a problem
- To advance the unique interests of a particular group

When students believe in their agency and efficacy to positively influence *school culture, community, and learning*, schools and students are more likely to thrive within schools and communities and also as future leaders.

Having a **civic voice**, understanding and being an active participant in helping influence, shape, and improve our society is critical for youth leadership to thrive now and into the future.

What we think “Service” looks like



- **Advocacy and Awareness** (spreading awareness, lobbying, and/or campaigning)
- **Fundraising or Collection Efforts** (fundraising or collecting of goods)
- **Volunteer Service and Action** (serving with a talent, skill, or labor-based activity)
- **Service and Education Programs** (activities that are part of a program or curriculum)

What do admission officers and school counselors think?

“Personally, fundraising comes last on the list for me; too many kids are using parents’ connections to check off a “service” box via fundraising.”

“Not necessarily fundraising, but donation drives are big among our students. With so many things going on, it’s an “easy” way for them to complete community service....”

“Hands-on volunteer work seems to resonate more with me and I know that with NHS we are always pushing for more opportunities for students to accomplish something and make a difference as a group.”

“I find advocacy and awareness to be what resonates the most with me. If a student finds opportunities to understand the power of their voice in supporting others in need, then I feel like they are more likely to be authentically committed to a cause.”

The Power of Students



NatStuCo @NatStuCo · May 22, 2019
Two successful meetings down, three more to go! #studentadvocacyday
#ESSA #TitleIV @MDStuCo



NatStuCo @NatStuCo · May 22, 2019
Maryland currently allocates 250 guidance counselors per student. Having more support for guidance counselors would help address the mental health needs of students proactively, and not just in response to a traumatic event.
@MDStuCo #studentadvocacyday



Esther Abiona @ItsEstie · Jan 31, 2019
Getting ready for our NASSP Student Leadership Advisory Committee Capitol Hill briefing! Proud to be part of this amazing group of students.
#NASSPStudentVoice #EngageInChange @NASSP @NatStuCo



The Power of Students



State and Local Examples



Philadelphia students and educators rallied at the state capital in December to demand emergency funding to fix unsafe or unhealthy school conditions



San Diego students speak at school board against orcas in captivity at SeaWorld



Sacramento high school students testifying at a Assembly Budget meeting calling for an increase in per pupil student expenditures

- Advocacy doesn't have to be public speaking.
- Often, it's gathering your peers to work for a greater cause.
- Starting Grassroots, sending messages to Governors, social media movements etc.
- At Students For A Healthy Oregon we learned the most important factor to pushing a bill through our state legislature was gathering the biggest, most passionate group possible and anyone can do that.

- Communication
- Analysis/Root Cause
- Team building
- Empathy
- Conflict Resolution
- Project Management
- Etc.

What makes advocacy “service/leadership?”

1. Active Role

2. Commitment

3. Impact

4. Experience

5. Reflection

Poll Time!

Now that you are more aware of what is an advocacy activity and the benefits of those activities, do you plan on supporting your student's participating in advocacy activities moving forward?

Do Something! Ready, Set, Vote!



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

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REGISTERED TO VOTE!**

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\$1,000

NEXT DEADLINE July 31st, 2020

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Q&A

