



U.S. Congress Website Scavenger Hunt

Advocacy Toolkit

A key to effectively communicating with policymakers is getting to know them and understanding what they think is important.

The purpose of this scavenger hunt is to help you get to know your policymakers and to improve your understanding of how Congress works. It is important to know the interests and priorities of your senators and representative, as well as how they have been involved in education policy, so that you can craft your stories around their interests. In fact, you may choose to develop a different story for each legislator based on the answers to the questions below.

Use these websites to help you complete this scavenger hunt: house.gov, senate.gov and thomas.loc.gov/. Complete one scavenger hunt for each of your senators and your representative.

Question	Answer	How does this information help me tell my story/ better understand Congress?
Does your legislator hold a leadership position?		
Is your legislator a member of the House or Senate Appropriations Committee? <i>If yes, which subcommittee(s)?</i>		
Is your legislator a member of the Education Committee? <i>In the House this is the Education & the Workforce Committee.</i> <i>In the Senate this is the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee.</i>		
Does your legislator have a position/policy statement on education? <i>If yes, what are his or her education priorities?</i>		
Has your legislator issued any press releases/statements on education issues?		

Question	Answer	How does this information help me tell my story/ better understand Congress?
<p>Has your legislator been a sponsor (i.e. the lead member who introduces a piece of legislation) of any education bills?</p> <p><i>If yes, what are the title(s) and a quick summary of the bill(s)?</i></p>		
<p>Has your legislator co-sponsored any education bills?</p> <p><i>If yes, what are the title(s) and a quick summary of the bill(s)?</i></p>		
<p>What was your legislator's profession prior to his or her election to Congress?</p>		
<p>Where are your legislator's district offices located in your home state?</p> <p><i>List the address and phone number of the office closest to you.</i></p>		
<p>What online resources such as e-newsletters/social networks does your legislator use? How can you sign up for those networks?</p>		
<p>What personal items about the legislator (family, friends, community, education) may connect you personally?</p>		