



SCHOOL BOARD ENGAGEMENT 101

How to show up, speak up, and shape your child's education.

Your local school board has more influence over your child's education than any federal or state official. They decide curriculum, library content, sex education programs, and school policies. That means you have the power to influence what happens—when you engage.

Here's how to start:



STEP 1: KNOW YOUR SCHOOL BOARD

- Look up your school district's website and identify:
 - Your school board members
 - The meeting calendar
 - The policies being reviewed or adopted
- Sign up for email alerts or board agendas to stay informed.



Tip: Many districts archive previous meetings online. Watch a few to learn the tone and structure before attending in person.



STEP 2: ATTEND MEETINGS CONSISTENTLY

- Dress respectfully, bring notes, and arrive early to sign up for public comment.
- Bring another parent or friend for support—presence matters.
- If you don't feel ready to speak yet, that's okay. Listen, observe, and take notes.



STEP 3: MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

You have the right to submit public comments and speak at meetings.

To prepare:

- Focus on 1–2 key points
- Speak as a parent, not a partisan
- Keep it under the time limit (usually 2–3 minutes)
- Use facts and personal experience
- End with a clear ask (e.g., "I urge you to vote NO on ___")



"I'm a parent in this district, and I'm concerned about..." is more powerful than quoting headlines.



SCHOOL BOARD ENGAGEMENT 101

How to show up, speak up, and shape your child's education.



STEP 4: SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TOO

- Email the board or district superintendent with your thoughts
- CC the board secretary so it's added to public record
- Use respectful language, but be firm and clear in your position



STEP 5: MULTIPLY YOUR IMPACT

- Invite other parents to attend or submit comments
- Share meeting dates in your church group or parent circle
- Organize a **"Protect Our Kids" turnout night**—strength is in numbers
- Follow up with board members after votes (especially if they represented you well)



REMEMBER: YOU ARE THE AUTHORITY.

You are not a nuisance. You are a parent with a right and responsibility to shape the environment your child learns in. School boards work for you, not the other way around.



DOWNLOAD TALKING POINTS, SAMPLE SCRIPTS, AND OPT-OUT LETTERS AT:



<https://nmfam.org/protect-our-kids>

New Mexico Family Action Foundation | Protect Our Kids