

Missouri Music Education Association Advocacy Day

Checklist and Guide

April 15

Jefferson City, MO Capitol Building



Schedule of the Day:

8:30am	MMEA Advocacy Day Registration in 3 rd Floor Rotunda—House Side
9:00am	Advocacy Meeting and Briefing/Training Session
10:00am-noon	Individual Appointments with Representatives
Noon	Group Photo and Summary from Advocacy Council/Brian Reeves-MMEA President

1. First, please register for Advocacy Day here: <https://goo.gl/forms/8C2VgTOKmivVrHkn2> You do NOT NEED to register to participate, but this form helps us better communicate with you.
2. Find Your Legislator/Representative: Click here (www.mo.gov/government/legislative-branch) to locate your Missouri Representatives. Select “find your legislator” and enter your street address. Your representatives are the first two that appear on the list. Your appointments should be made with only the state senatorial and house district members. Your national representatives will likely be in D.C.
3. **Schedule an appointment with YOUR legislator for Monday between 10am and noon on April 15.** We will be meeting at 9:00am that morning as a group to distribute and cover the main “asks” we are making as an organization to keep the message clear and consistent. You can make a visit in pairs, but it would be more effective to have MANY appointments rather than one group appointment. If your representative is not available, ask to schedule a meeting with a member of their staff. This can also be advantageous!
4. Do Your Homework: Most members have valuable information on their websites, including biographical information, voting history, and how they voted on previous legislation. The more you know about your legislator, the more effective the conversation had!
5. Build a Relationship: Find out when your legislators will be back in your district. Look for opportunities to interact in person beyond visiting their offices. Remember, that visiting with officials’ staff can be just as valuable.
6. Invite colleagues, parents, and students. This day isn’t just for music educators. It is for anyone who is a stakeholder in music education. The more individuals participating, the louder our collective voice! Encourage them to register for Advocacy Day by clicking the link above.
7. How to prepare: Attend the Advocacy Meeting/Briefing at 9:00am in the Rotunda the morning of Advocacy Day. You can also attend an advocacy training session the evening before (April 14). If you are interested, please indicate this on the registration form.
8. On the Day: Bring a list of “asks” (which MMEA will help facilitate), and a list of your own LOCAL concerns for music education. Don’t be afraid to ask them questions. Keep your meeting timely and mindful of their schedule.
9. Follow Up: Send a note of thanks and include the photo taken. Legislators may include it on their social media or website to promote your visit. Share your own photos on social media and tag colleagues to keep the conversation going!
10. Interested in continuing the conversation or being more involved? Check out <https://nafme.org/advocacy/> for helpful guides and information. Join the Missouri Network Advocacy Council by visiting www.mmea.net and clicking on MMEA Advocacy Network Form to add your name and remain informed about important issues facing music in the state of Missouri.

Additional questions or concerns? Contact advancing.music.ed@mmea.net for more information.