

NCTM Advocacy Toolkit

Getting Familiar With Who Represents You

In the age of social media, learning about what elected officials care about, what they are working on, and what they consider to be important local, state and national issues has never been easier. Most lawmakers use social media to talk about their work or the communities they represent, and are even investing in professional staff to manage their accounts. What does this mean for NCTM members interested in advocacy? It means getting a sense of what the elected officials who represent you are doing is easier than ever.

How do I find out who represents me?

[This resource](#) will tell you just about everyone who represents you at the federal, state and local level. Unfamiliar with the names? Don't worry--that's not unusual. Most people know the name of their mayor, the governor and maybe one senator. A lot of people represent you at different levels.

What now?

Assuming you are familiar with the Internet and how to search for sites, use the information you just discovered to find the websites associated with the people (or maybe some of the people) who represent you. Most will feature "education" as an issue and a discussion of the lawmakers' stances on K-12, higher education and other related issues. Those websites will also tell you how to follow the various social media accounts of the elected officials who represent you.

And then?

Follow them! Follow as few or as many as you like, but start paying attention to what these folks--**who work for you**--care about and are working on. This should get you more comfortable with these conversations and show you that **you are the expert** on what is going on in mathematics classrooms in your community. You may even want to respond to a post. If you do, keep in mind that you are doing so as a private citizen, and always keep the response respectful and related to the content of the post.

What's next?

Following those who represent you can be a first step in becoming comfortable with advocating for mathematics education. Next steps might include discussions with neighbors and colleagues, attending a school board meeting, inviting an elected official to a school or classroom, or requesting a meeting to discuss your concerns and priorities with an official or their staff.