

# How to be an Effective Advocate

*PTA is the oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the United States.*

## Questions to Ask

- Does the issue affect all children, or one individual child?
- Is it a school-wide issue, or class-room-based?
- Who is involved? Multiple children? Parents? Teachers?
- Who are the decision-makers that could resolve this issue?

## Tips for PTA Advocacy Reps

- Advocate for all children.
- Reach out to Advocates PTA regarding district issues.
- Receive FL PTA Voter Voice and ACCPTA emails.
- Contact state legislators as needed to support PTA initiatives.

## Steps to Take

1. Start with the teacher. Request a meeting (or phone call/email if needed). Try to reach a compromise.
2. If the issue continues or there is a disagreement, talk with the school administration (BRT, Guidance, Assistant Principal, Principal). PTA may be able to assist with who to speak with.
3. School administration may refer to the district if needed. Maintain communication with the school administration, even if they are not the best contact.

## Tips for Meetings

- Do your research in advance. Know your goal, and gather information to support your ask.
- Be sure you are talking to the right person.
- Listen first, then make your ask.
- Be sure you have a proposed solution to the issue, rather than just a complaint.
- Keep the message simple and positive, and focus on the needs of the children.
- Take good notes, and follow up to make sure there is mutual understanding.
- Focus on relationships. Maintain a positive relationship with the teachers, schools and district.

Alachua County Advocates

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**ACCPTA Email list:** [www.accpta.org](http://www.accpta.org)

**ACCPTA Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/TheACCPTA](http://www.facebook.com/TheACCPTA)

**FL PTA Voter Voice:** [floridapta.org/voter-voice-legislative/](http://floridapta.org/voter-voice-legislative/)