

STATE LEVEL ADVOCACY

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GENERAL STRUCTURE OF OSDE

- 28 Departments
- Varies from instruction to teacher certification
- Each department specializes in a specific area(s)
 - Special Education
 - Accountability
 - Counseling
 - Instruction
- Each department has an Executive Director
- Each month the OSDE has board meetings that the public can attend

OSDE AND THE LEGISLATURE

- Psych/SLP Bonus
 - Set in state statute (line item)
 - Budget is appropriated by the legislature
 - If budget is appropriated for the stipend, OSDE has to present it to the Oklahoma State Board of Education for approval. A vote needs to take place.
- What does the bill specifically state?
 - Subject to the **availability** of funds, the **State Board of Education shall** provide an annual salary bonus in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) no later than January 31 of each year to the following employees of public school districts.

STATE BOARD VS OSDE

- Board Members are selected by the governor
- There are 7 voting state members
- Purpose: State boards, operating as a lay body over state education, are intended to serve as an unbiased broker for education decision making.
- So who do you think ultimately makes this decision?
 - Discuss with your neighbor.

HOW OFTEN DOES OSDE-SES INTERACT WITH THE LEGISLATURE?

- OSDE-SES and the Legislature rarely interact
 - Seclusion/Restraint Bill (did not pass)
 - Reading Sufficiency Act



So... how do we address this issue?

THROUGH OSPA!

- Advocated for psych. bonus at OSDE
- Legislative Days
- Emails, phone calls, and letters sent to legislatures
- Meetings with legislators
- Discussions with Todd Loftin (Executive Director of SPED)
- Monthly meetings with OSDE



WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

- A coordinated combination of problem identification, solution creation, strategy development, and actions taken to make positive change.

TYPES OF ADVOCACY

- There are various types of advocacy:
 - For example, health advocacy focuses on policy initiatives that focus on safety, availability, and quality of care. Legislative advocacy focuses on the legislative process both at the state level and federal level as a strategy to create change through legislation.

WHO ARE YOU ADVOCATING FOR?

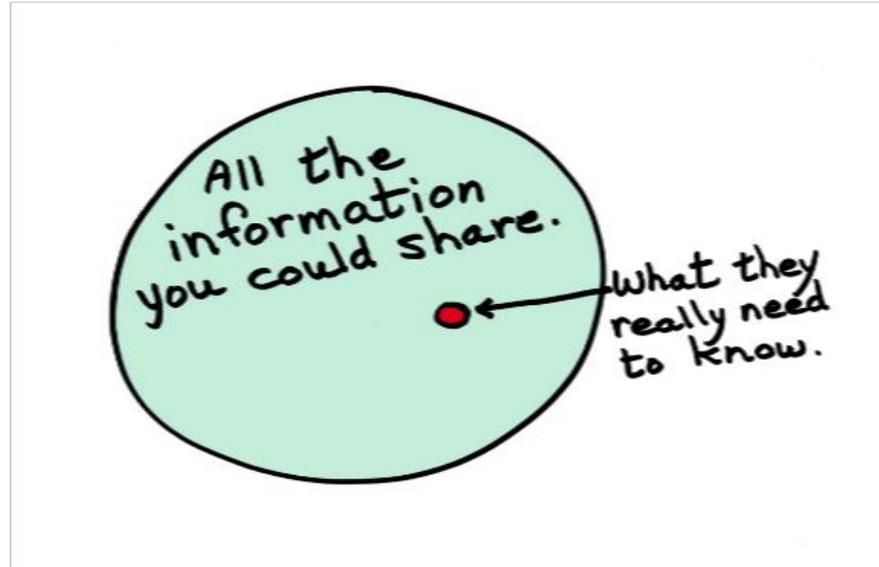
- Students
- Colleagues
- Administrators
- Parents
- Community



IN ADVOCACY, TOO MUCH
INFORMATION = OVERWHELMED



WHEN ALL THEY REALLY NEEDED WAS....



FIVE STEPS TO BECOMING AN ADVOCATE



OUR REALITY

- Every day, rules, regulations, and laws are being implemented that affect how we practice as school psychologists. As an expert in your field, you have the power to be a strong school advocate. You can provide insight into how legislation how either positive or negatively impact education.

STATE LEVEL PROBLEMS

- Get into groups of 3
 - Write down 3 key issues that school psychologists face today in Oklahoma
 - What issues are important to you?
 - What brings you here today?



GROUP WORK

Decide on who will have the following responsibilities in your group:

- Facilitator-makes sure objectives are being met
- Presenter-present results to entire group
- Scribe-take notes, write objectives, goals, etc.
- Critic-raises questions, objections, etc.
- Resource collector-looks up research, articles, resources, etc.

GROUP ACTIVITY

- Based on your goals and/or issues you are facing, what do we want to ask for? Does it require change to:
 - Legislature
 - Policy/Procedures (OSDE)
 - Regulation (Legislature)
 - Programs (OSDE)
 - Funding (Legislature)
- Know your Audience
- What are some solutions to the problem?

GROUP ACTIVITY

- Craft your Message:
 - Be clear on what you are asking for
 - Keep it simple and focused
 - Use positive language
 - Tailor message to audience
 - Make the case
 - Be consistent
 - Use evidence
 - Economic arguments are important
- Identify delivery methods
 - Ads
 - Social Media
 - Local Events
 - Letters

GROUP ACTIVITY

- Plan next steps:
 - Identify achievable goals that set stage for larger work
 - Set out clear steps
 - Keep focused on long term goal



NEXT STEPS

- Contact or visit your legislature
- Mail your letter, ad, post, etc. to your legislature that you wrote today
- Contact the state superintendent (Hofmeister-405-521-3301) and Executive Director of SPED (Todd Loftin-405-522-3237) about changes we would like to see or ways OSPA can help.

RESOURCES

- Nasponline.org
- Legislative Advocacy:
<http://sbs.mnsu.edu/psych/psyd/sps/resources/GraduateStudentAdvocacy.pdf>
- NASP Practice Model Advocacy:
<https://www.nasponline.org/research-and-policy/advocacy-tools-and-resources/advocacy-roadmaps/nasp-practice-model-advocacy-roadmap>

QUESTIONS?

