

## **Federal Grassroots Advocacy Sample Action Plan**

- **January - February** – You’ve just been appointed to serve on the Colorado Federal Relations Network. Get signed-up with the National School Board Association (NSBA) to receive legislative highlights. Use the NSBA information to familiarize yourself with federal issues. Attend the January FRN meeting and attend the FRN conference in Washington, D.C. if possible. Come to the CASB Winter Conference in February and get debriefed on the FRN conference if you were not able to attend.

Start planning for the end of March when Congress is on break and at home. If there is an appropriate opportunity, invite your members of Congress to an event where they can learn about your district and its strengths and challenges first hand.

- **March** – Congress takes “spring break” the last half of March. If you have not already planned a meeting or invited your members to an event, it’s not too late. Find out what federal education issue is “hot” and arrange a meeting with a member of your Congressional delegation. Be sure you are well briefed and know what you want to bring to the member’s attention.
- **May** – Congress has their Memorial Day break. Perhaps you weren’t able to arrange a meeting in March. Memorial Day presents another opportunity. Is there an awards ceremony recognizing outstanding students in your district? Invite your federal Representative or one of Colorado’s Senators to present an award.
- **June** – Attend the June FRN meeting. Hear what other CASB members have done regarding grassroots lobbying. Learn about priority federal issues.

**July - September** – Congress is home much of the summer. Take advantage of the July 4 break as well as their summer break in August to strengthen relationships with Congressional members. Begin drafting federal resolutions for the CASB Delegate Assembly in October. Attend the August FRN meeting to share ideas for federal resolutions and learn what resolutions other FRN members are contemplating.

- **October - December** – Attend CASB’s October fall conference in and delegate assembly (if you are the chosen delegate for your district) and learn more about the issues facing school boards. In December, come to the CASB Convention and attend the FRN meeting where federal issues will be discussed and planning for the FRN conference in Washington, D.C, will begin.

This document is part of the Colorado Association of School Board's Grassroots Advocacy Toolkit. For more information on grassroots advocacy, contact Julie George, director of government relations, at [jgeorge@casb.org](mailto:jgeorge@casb.org), 800.530.8430 or 303.832.1000.

