



TAKING YOUR CLASS ON A VISIT TO THE STATE HOUSE

One very effective way of communicating to your state legislators the importance of adult basic education and the vital need to increase funds for ABE is by taking your class(es) to visit the State House. The trip can also help to get students engaged in public debates at the state level or in their local communities.

A. Before you go:

1. You don't need to do a lot, but some advance planning can make a class trip to the State House memorable and effective.
2. Appointments are not required, though they are highly recommended if you want to meet with a legislator. Your legislator(s) may not always be available, so one option is for your class to meet with his or her legislative aide. Meeting with an aide is just as valuable as aides are the eyes and ears in the community for the legislators.
3. Prepare your students for the visit with a civics class.
4. Have students practice what they will say to the legislator and/or aide, so that their messages are conveyed with clarity and confidence.

B. While you are there:

1. Allow time to go through security.
2. Bring the MCAE legislative directory so you can find your legislator's office.
3. Speak with your legislator and/or aide.
4. Bring a camera and take pictures.
5. Take your class on a tour of the State House – free tours are available.

C. After your visit:

1. Send a thank you note to the legislator and/or aide with whom you met.
2. Send your pictures to MCAE and to your local newspaper. Share your pictures on social media and include @MAAdultEd or #adulthood.
3. Conduct a follow-up civics lesson to help students reflect on what they have learned and what they might want to do next.