



# Advocacy in Your Own Backyard

**NJAHPERD Annual Convention**

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- You don't need to travel to Trenton or Washington D.C. to advocate on health and physical education issues
- You can advocate in your own “backyard”— where your elected officials live and work
- The focus of this session is to learn how and what you can advocate for, plus a success story

# Before the Visit

- Get a team together
- Learn who represents you and know his/her record on education (NJAHPERD can help):
  - Federal legislators <http://www.congressweb.com/shapeamerica/legislators>
  - State legislators: <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp>
- Schedule a meeting
- Have a meeting plan: include talking points, personal story and “asks”

# During the Visit

- Introductions
- Personal story, raise issue points and make “ask”
- Listen carefully and take notes
- Thank you and invitation to future event

# After the Visit

- Debrief immediately after meeting with meeting team
- Follow up with policymaker
- Let NJAHPERD staff/consultant know how meeting went

# Federal Issues: Backyard Advocacy

- Support funding for Title IV, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) at its authorized amount of \$1.65 billion for FY18
- Support professional development for educators by funding Title II, Part A of ESSA at its authorized amount of \$2.295 billion for FY18
- Support after school programs by funding Title IV, Part B of ESSA at its authorized amount of \$1.1 billion for FY18.

# NJAHPERD Priority Issues: Backyard Advocacy

- Recess Bill
  - Bill Numbers: S-847 (Turner/Diegnan)/A-1076 (Peterson/DiMaio/Jasey/Wimberly)
  - Minimum 20 minute daily recess period in public elementary schools (K-5)
- Teacher Certification Bill
  - Legislation that requires elementary school teachers in NJ (K-6) to possess the appropriate endorsement to their teaching certificate to teach health and physical education in New Jersey S-858 (Turner/Diegnan)/ A-674 (Jasey/Caputo/Muoio). Existing teachers will be grandfathered.





# What Are We Looking At?

## Local Level:

- NJ law requires every public school student in grades 1-12 to receive **150 minutes** of health, safety and physical education **per week** (N.J.S.A. 18:35-7,8).
- Recess Policy: advocate to require a minimum of 20 minutes daily recess in grades K-5. Recess time should **not** be included in the 150 minute instructional time requirement.

# School Policy Change

Discuss Issue/Advocate with:

- Your Supervisor
- Your Principal
- PTA (Parents)/Fellow Teachers or Administrators
- Local School Board of Education



Never in my wildest dreams could I  
have imagined that we would have to  
defend children's right to play.

*Nancy Carlsson-Paige • Artist: Lance Hunter*



# Taking Action



- Follow education issues in the Legislature and at State Board meetings
- Get to know your local public officials: set up a meeting, invite him/her to a school event and then contact them on important issues
- Attend your local school board meeting
- VOTE! Volunteer for elections and campaigns
- Stay involved with your association (NJASPERD and NJEA)

# Educate - Advocate - Organize



**Join your Legislative Action Team – LAT - a network of NJEA members who communicate legislative and political information to elected and appointed decision makers and to other NJEA members. They advocate for public education and organize members to take action when needed.**