

What Can I Do to Advocate for the SLDC and My Organization?

1. **Familiarize** yourself with the situation and the facts. Funding for the Student Leadership Development Center is in the Oregon Department of Education budget as a Grant in Aid. The Oregon Department of Education contracts with Willamette Education Service District for operation of the SLDC. Publicity and statistical information is available from the SLDC.
2. **Review the talking points** that have been developed. **Develop your own key statement** or message to clearly communicate your support and your personal experience with your organization. Emphasis on **helping students meet Oregon Diploma Requirements** and prepare for their next steps toward a successful future is a helpful message.
3. Always mention **both your organization name and the Student Leadership Development Center** in your correspondence, discussions, etc. This is very important.
4. **Contact your own legislator** and ask that they support full funding of the Student Leadership Development Center in the Oregon Department of Education budget. Share your own key message and personal experience with your organization and the SLDC.
 - ❖ Personal contact is best. Call your legislators and schedule an appointment to meet with them to discuss the issues and request their support.
 - ❖ Write a letter to your legislator, sharing your own experiences and your support of our organizations and the SLDC.
 - ❖ Phone your legislators. You will probably talk with a Legislative Aide. Ask them to support full funding of the SLDC in the ODE budget.
 - ❖ Send an e-mail to your legislators. It is very easy to contact your legislator through the Oregon Legislature website: www.leg.state.or.us.
5. Contact members of the **Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on Education**. These are probably the most important people to contact, as they are key individuals in determining budgets as they move forward in the process.
6. **Identify and encourage others** to contact their legislators to voice their support. **Students, parents, advisors, business partners, and alumni** are all needed in the effort. State conferences are a great place for this to happen.
7. **Provide legislative public testimony**. Information is available on how to testify before a legislative committee.
8. Write **letters to the editor** of your local newspaper.
9. **Invite the press** to cover your chapter, district, and state events and activities. Make sure to mention the Student Leadership Development Center.
10. **Continue your efforts until the final state budget is approved.**