

Possible Model for White Bear Lake LAC

Legislative Action Committees (LAC)

Definition: Legislative Action Committees are non-partisan, grassroots community groups of parents, grandparents, business leaders and other community members who have an interest in the future of our kids and community and who strongly believe in a quality and fully funded education for our children. This group supports education and advocates for public schools at the state legislature. They advocate for the passage of new laws that build strong schools and for the repeal or modifications of existing laws that detract from education by:

- Having a presence at the state capitol while building relationships with legislators and state leaders
- Educating and engaging the community in the political process to build grassroots support for public schools

What Are The Responsibilities of the LAC?

- Make recommendations to the school board regarding the legislative platform.
- Work to build a positive relationship with legislators in the district.
- Determine strategies and tactics for legislative advocacy.
- Report to the community regarding legislative issues with the primary purpose of education them about issues.
- Assist parents and community members in becoming involved by setting up an email network in which they receive updates on legislation and support in contacting legislators on issues as needed.
- Enlist community resources as needed.

Steering Committee: Reports to school board; to be made up of representatives from various areas within our community including:

- 2 Co-chairs
- School Parent Liaison(s), both elementary and secondary
- Board Liaisons
- Staff Liaisons
- Sub-committee Liaisons - from list that follows
- Community Liaisons: Business, senior, Early Childhood, faith-based, high-school student, cultural

It's entirely possible that some of these roles may be filled by the same person. These are some of the liaisons that other committees have more consistently used, but we can come up with those who we think best reflect our needs. We would look to the Steering Committee to help formulate these positions.

Subcommittees:

Advocacy and Engagement

- Message development
- Legislative visits
- Monitor Legislative activity and Committee meetings
- Network (meet) with local community groups

PR/Communications

- Web site information
- Logo
- Promotion of LAC
- Letters to the Editor

Parent and Community LAC Network

- Calls for Action (e-mail/call legislators)
- Updates to members (listserv)

Coalition Network

- Soliciting new members and building support throughout the community