

Florida Gifted Network

TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH LEGISLATORS

- Address correspondence to Florida representatives as follows:
The Honorable John Doe
Florida House of Representatives
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300.

Dear Representative Smith

- Address correspondence to senators this way:
Senator Jane Doe
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Brown

Note: When writing to the Chair of a Committee, it is proper to address them as:
Dear Mr. Chairman or Madam Chairwoman:

- Personal visits and phone calls are more beneficial.
- Avoid sending mass email communications and form letters to your legislators. Our gifted children are worth this little extra effort.
- Immediately provide your name, state that you are a constituent, and identify the issue or specific bill number.
- Be brief and avoid using technical jargon.
- Personalize it – share in what ways this issue affects you and your family.
- Be polite, positive and constructive, and offer to be a resource. Never threaten.
- Stay focused on the main points and provide them with a one page information sheet. (FGN Talking Points)
- Ask them what their position on the legislation is and offer to be a resource.
- Formally thank them for their time.
- Follow-up as needed when the legislative language changes as it passes through various committees.
- Follow-up with another thank you after any votes are taken.
- Get to know your legislators' aides.