WWW.WWWWW. How to be an Advocacy Chair

Who  You, your school community, anyone who cares about children and families

What  Advocate: “A person who speaks or writes in support of something/someone

When  Whenever necessary to promote the welfare of children and families

Where  In classrooms; at PTA, school board and city council meetings; in Sacramento and Washington, DC.

Why  “To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.”

❖ Become familiar with resources – people and materials
  o Study the Legislation Job Description and Advocacy Section in the CA State PTA Toolkit
  o Familiarize yourself with material on pertinent websites
  o Read a daily newsletter
  o Read the Fourth District PTA Orange Leaves
  o Subscribe to Fourth District’s “Leg-Link” to receive current legislation news and alerts. E-mail your request to leg-tech@fourthdistrictpta.org
  o Get to know your Council and District Advocacy people

❖ Learn who your elected representatives are (School board, city council, state and federal)
  o Become familiar with what kind of issues each has control over

❖ Attend PTA training and seminars related to your position
  o Spring/Fall Fourth District Leadership Workshops
  o California State PTA Convention (Long Beach – May 1-4, 2008)
  o Fourth District Roundtables (February 1 & April 25)
  o Fourth District Sacramento Safari (April 1-2)

❖ Take Action – Motivate PTA members to join you
  o Prepare a legislative report for every PTA meetings and pass out information
  o Write articles for each issue of your PTA newsletter
  o Educate parents about issues that effect their children
  o Establish phone/e-mail trees to pass on important advocacy information
  o Distribute voter registration cards before every election - have a booth at Back to School Night and Open House

Fourth District PTA

everychild. onevoice.