

Creating a Parent Advocacy Plan

This page is meant to help library media specialists create a parent advocacy plan. The ultimate goal is to recruit parents as advocates for the library media program. This can be accomplished, over time, through education and exposure to the benefits offered by the library media center for them and their children.

Ask Yourself:

- What are the concerns of the parents in your school community?
- How can the library media center meet those needs/concerns?
- What are the library media services/programs/instructional efforts that benefit parents and their children?
- How can you communicate with parents about the benefits of the library media program?
- If you were to ask parents about the library media program, what would they say?

Getting Started:

<p>Make a List of Parent Concerns: For Example: Success for their child in school and in the future Help and resources for homework Knowing what is available Ease of access to resources and information Other:</p>	<p>Make a List of Library Media Center Concerns: For Example: Library media center connections to curriculum and learning Integrated information literacy skills Budget and staffing for the library media center Parent support Other:</p>
--	---

What benefits can be provided by the library media center for parents? (Match these to their concerns):

- Library media center connections to school improvement planning
- Information literacy skills and strategies
- Ease of access and organization— simple and remote
- Resource and learning links to curriculum objectives
- Parenting resources & information
- Other:

What services/programs can be provided by the library media center for parents? (Match these to their concerns):

- Communication—newsletters, notes home, website postings
- Resource availability—remote online catalog, databases, website links, community links
- Tools and strategies for accomplishing homework assignments—website postings
- Parenting materials/resources for checkout—parent library, general collection, weblinks
- Presentations and programs--open house, literacy night, parent meetings, volunteer opportunities, etc.
- Other:

Resources Available for Parent Advocacy:

INFOhio: <http://www.infohio.org> (To access the Parent's Page on the INFOhio website, click on "PARENT" on the menu at the top of the page. Be sure to take a look at the INFOhio Parent Tool Kit by going to: <http://www.infohio.org/Parent/Toolkit.html>.)

American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Advocacy page: <http://www.ala.org/aaslTemplate.cfm?Section=aasladvocacy> (Access the AASL advocacy page for ideas and information about advocacy.)

School Library Media Activities Monthly articles related to parent advocacy:

- "Enlist the Choir" by Catherine M. Beyers (*SLMAM*, October 2005: 47-48).
- "Looking from All Perspectives!" by Carl A. Harvey II (*SLMAM*, November 2005: 44-46).
- "Families and Family Life" by Carolyn S. Brodie and Greg Byerly (*SLMAM*, December, 2005: 38-40).
- "Parent Partnership Power" by Catherine M. Beyers (*SLMAM*, February 2006: 47-48).
- "Plugged In @ your library" by Catherine M. Beyers (*SLMAM*, May 2006: 49-50).
- "Internet Safety Night Brought to You by the Library Media Specialist" by Maureen Tannetta (*SLMAM*, October 2006: 31-32).
- "Collective Action @ your library" by Catherine M. Beyers (*SLMAM*, January 2007: 48-50).
- "Connecting the Library Media Center" and Parents by Carl A. Harvey II (*SLMAM*, February 2007:25-27).
- "The INFOhio Parent Project: Models to Use" by Carolyn S. Brodie (*SLMAM*, February 2007:49-50).