

## HOW DO I CHANGE WHAT'S HAPPENING?



Additionally, we want to create the same caring environment that we want the school to be. For example, we know that Positive Behavior Interventions Supports (PBIS) and restorative practices are methods with proven benefit, and we can model these so children know there are loving and effective alternatives to harsh discipline. Be open to thinking about and trying new ways of discipline. Look for resources on PBIS such as the Dept. of Education's "Getting Behavior in Shape at Home." Finally, you can explain to your child what school alternatives to discipline are, so they can inform you when these aren't taking place at school. Helping your child learn what is and isn't acceptable for school officials to do can give them the tools to report more accurately to you. More information is always better, especially when you need to share a report or send a request for a meeting.

## Leadership in the Community

When we become leaders in advocacy, we join a heritage that started and continues the civil rights movement. When we become leaders, we join the ranks of our heroes who were just ordinary people like us, standing up for their right to a better quality of life. You have something valuable to give, but it can be overwhelming to know where to start. But there is a role for you here that only you can fill, so let's look at the different ways to contribute to find the right fit for your natural gifts and resources.

Leadership in advocacy can take many different forms. In fact, the more approaches to advocacy we can take the better. We provide a number of approaches to advocacy that might work for you, depending on your time and resources. These approaches include the following types of advocacy:

- Grassroots organizing
- Institutions
- Policy
- Courts
- Media

## Leadership is Love

The efforts to fight for rights, in all their varied ways, is a long tradition that has brought many gains to our communities, and there is not one form that has greater value. Leadership in advocacy takes time, effort, patience, dedication, compromise, and heart. It is work and it's not always easy. Leadership is a lot like love in this way. In fact, you could say that being a leader is the act of loving something publicly. When we are leading, we are loving our families and our communities better, and asking others to do the same. Leadership is a constant, in some form or another, but so is the love that got us here and continues to sustain us.

Please contact FFLIC to learn more about how FFLIC can help you lead the change.

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