



FFLIC

POLICY



Policies set up how our systems run, and they can make or break equity in our communities. Historically, policies were created to put in place and maintain systems of racial oppression, making it legal for people to be discriminated against and kept out of housing, education, and other opportunities. Many of those policies continue to exist today. But the great thing about advocating for policy change is that it can give us a specific target to move towards and rally around (for example, a specific bill that aims to make restorative practices like PBIS in school the law), which is a huge advantage in organizing and creating change.

Policy goals

When we have specific goals in mind, it's easier to get large numbers of people involved, and this can have a huge impact on shifting a policy. The more people that sign a petition, show up to rally on the steps of the State Capitol, put in calls to their representatives, or publicly support a policy or bill (i.e. wear a shirt, put up a sign on their lawn, make a post about it), the better.

Large numbers of people have more power to put pressure on lawmakers to meet our demands. People coming together is the most powerful tool we have. We can see the effects of the gains we have made every day, but we have a long way to go.

Government and voting

Policy advocacy is a way to change the unjust laws that are creating problems in our communities and schools. When doing policy advocacy, it's important to understand our government system. Our government has three branches that are designed to hold each other accountable: the legislature, courts, and executive/administrative.

When we perform policy advocacy in education, we try to change how education laws are being implemented by the state departments. We also can advocate for changes to laws through the Senate or House of Representatives by telling them what we want through petitions, rallies, phone calls, organizing, etc. Additionally, voting is such an important tool because this helps us to have greater impact on all three parts of our government systems, through our elected representatives.

