



FFLIC

POLICY



Advocating for legislation

One example of policy advocacy is FFLIC's push for a law that makes schools use PBIS and restorative practices instead of "zero tolerance" for minor things. Because restorative approaches are not law, they can continue to use these harmful disciplinary tactics that suspend and expel students for normal misbehavior. There is a great need to create a statewide policy that guarantees our children's safety through alternatives to suspension. This is just one example of how a single policy can affect great change.

You can be a policymaker

An additional and important strategy is to become a policymaker yourself. If you don't want to run for state representative – which is definitely a possibility and something to think about—there are a number of advisory boards that seek out parents to serve. For instance, serving on the school board of your child's school is a way to directly impact what happens there. Check to see if your child's school has these opportunities.

What you might need:

- Knowledge of how the system works
- Policymakers' contact information
- Data and stories to influence policymakers
- Grassroots organizing
- Coalitions of organizations



Also, there are a number of state and local boards and councils you can join that are responsible for overseeing policy in our state departments. They attempt to ensure that different state and local agencies are doing their jobs in providing care for our children. Sometimes these boards also make policy recommendations to the state legislature, and their recommendations can carry a lot of weight. FFLIC is currently serving on some of the state boards that make policies to improve our state discipline codes.

Find out more

Additionally, FFLIC is keeping track of the different state and local boards that are supposed to be addressing the needs of children, as well as laws that need to be changed. This will help us all make sure agencies and policymakers are doing their job to protect our children and to propose laws that fix any gaps. Please ask us about how to get involved in these policy efforts!

Call or Email. 504.708.8376 or fflic@fflic.org