

## **RECESSION PROOFING SCHOOL COUNSELOR POSITIONS** *Relationships, Relationships, Relationships...*

### **1. IDENTIFY** the names and contact information for your state legislators.

For your state representative, go to:

<http://www.house.mi.gov/mhrpublic/>

For your state senator, go to:

<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/fysbyaddress.html>

### **2. ATTEND A LEGISLATOR’S VIRTUAL OFFICE HOUR**

Upcoming dates typically can be found on their Facebook pages or webpages, or you can call their office for dates.

Depending on the format, prepare and practice in advance:

- Brief introduction
- A question that informs
- What is most inspiring to you about being a school counselor.
- Offer to be a resource

### **3. BRAG! SHARE YOUR COUNSELING PROGRAM’S ACCOMPLISHMENTS & VISION FOR THE FUTURE!**

- Share your favorite student success story (while protecting the student’s identity).
- Inspire your elected officials to learn more.
- Date + Stories

### **4. ENGAGE YOUR FANS**

- Would you be willing to a letter to the School Board urging them to expand school counseling positions? (what if I wrote a draft for you?)
- Would you be willing to attend a School Board meeting and provide brief comments on what it meant for your child to have access to a school counselor?

### **5. INVITE A LAWMAKER TO ADDRESS A LOCAL ZOOM GATHERING OF SCHOOL COUNSELORS.**

*PLEASE NOTE: This is an activity for non-election years only!*

Give the official a specific time frame (“Representative Smith, you will have 10 minutes to speak and 15 minutes for Q&A”), and a topic (“Would you please share tips on how to effectively advocate at the state level on issues of concern to school counselors?”).

### **6. GET TO KNOW LEGISLATIVE STAFF** and invite THEM to address a local gathering of school counselors.

**RINSE & REPEAT ALL OF THE ABOVE WITH YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS!**