



Shadow the Super 2011

Suggestions for Superintendents

Goal: To give legislators an inside view of school districts and how public policies are played out “on the ground.”

Listed below are some suggestions for planning your Shadow the Super experience.

- Discuss some of the issues your school district is facing. Ask your visitor if there are specific issues they'd like to discuss.
- Value the legislator's time, but make sure they experience a full day in the life of a Superintendent.
- If you have a district marquee, feature: “ABC welcomes Senator DEF.”
- Inform staff about the Shadow experience and schedule time at a school faculty meeting for staff to interact with the legislator. This provides an opportunity for the legislator to share his/her legislative agenda and to hear from real educators about policy issues.
- If time permits, take your legislator on a tour of the neighborhood.
- Set some time to wrap up the day and share observations and feedback. Discuss your school needs and real consequences to past legislation.
- Consider following up, if asked, to participate in a Shadow the Legislator experience during the upcoming session.
- Follow-up. Send a thank you letter. Add student-made pictures or photos to your message.
- Add the legislator to all district communications and send personal notes when appropriate.
- Add the legislator to the VIP invitation list.
- Plan on re-connecting at some future date.