

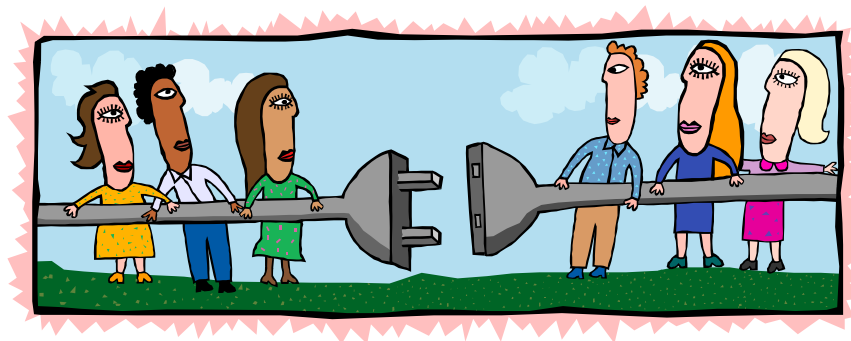
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network of New Jersey
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Empowered Parents: Educated, Engaged, Effective!

A Journey of a Thousand Miles Starts with a Single Step
“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world;
indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead



Why do parents get involved?

- They believe the issue is important to them and their children/family.
- They believe they have something to contribute.
- They believe that they will be listened to and their contributions respected.
- They believe their participation will make a difference.



How do parents stay involved?

- There are multiple opportunities for participation, from a small contribution of time and effort to progressively larger contributions of time and effort. The level of participation can vary as the ability of parents to participate varies depending on life circumstances.
- They receive sufficient advance notice of participation opportunities.
- Their participation is facilitated (child care, transportation, dinner).
- Their participation is listened to; their ideas are supported and respected.
- They do not experience retribution as a result of their participation, or if there is retribution, there is support for them and a forum and mechanism for addressing that retribution.
- Their participation has an impact; it makes an appreciable difference.
- Their participation is appreciated and that appreciation is made known/acknowledged.