

Advocacy Checklist for Students

Here is a checklist that can be used by students who are in danger of losing their French program and who are seeking support.

- _____ 1. Get involved by becoming an advocate for the French program. Why do you love your program? Why is it valuable? How can you share your feelings positively with others in your school and community?
- _____ 2. Contact other students, parents, and community members to ask their support.
- _____ 3. Use technology to spread the word and keep people updated on your efforts. With parent permission, consider creating a social media post, Facebook group, web page, video, etc.
- _____ 4. Write a letter to the editor of your school newspaper or local newspaper.
- _____ 5. Contact the local press to inform the public of your campaign.
- _____ 6. Create materials (social media posts, brochures, flyers, email messages) that provide reasons to study French. (You'll find some on the [French Advocacy Resource Bank](#).) Include links to web pages that talk positively about studying French. Distribute this information within the community.
- _____ 7. Present your case to the administration (principal, vice-principal, etc.) and/or the school board. Prepare a speech, record a video, create a PowerPoint presentation, etc.

You, as a student, are very powerful.

Your parents pay taxes and vote in School Board elections.

Remember:

- _____ 1. Be sure to write down the points you want to make so that you sound professional when speaking to a group.
- _____ 2. Ask your parent(s) for permission and get their input, proofreading, advice, etc. They will be able to help you in your efforts.
- _____ 3. Always address concerns in a positive and constructive manner. Be passionate, but realize that you also need logical arguments to be truly convincing.
- _____ 4. Seek solutions.
- _____ 5. Be proactive! Do not hesitate to say something because you think you are alone in wanting to see your French program continue. It's likely that others are thinking the same thing!
- _____ 6. Learning French is a valuable part of your education! Act NOW to preserve your program.

French Advocacy Resource Bank
American Association of Teachers of French