The following checklist is designed to support families to develop policies that will help make their vision of educational equity a reality. Families are critical stakeholders within our education system and must be seen as architects, rather than objects, of policy and be trusted to develop the solutions to our most pressing challenges in education.

Families are their child’s number one teacher and advocate and are powerful change agents who can lead the movement for educational equity.

**Identify the problem, causes and potential solution**

1. What is an issue you/your child/your children are facing in school or in the school system that is impacting their academic achievement, sense of belonging and safety at school, or opportunities to achieve their dreams?

2. What is the root cause of this issue/challenge?

3. What do you think is the solution? Do you know how much it would cost to implement it? How will you know if the policy is a success?

4. Does a policy already exist to solve this issue/challenge? If so, what needs to be improved or changed?

5. List the leading indicators of progress toward the policy goals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHAT WILL YOU MEASURE?</th>
<th>WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN?</th>
<th>HOW WILL YOU KNOW?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(e.g., results from teacher feedback survey, teacher focus groups, and community feedback survey)</td>
<td>(e.g., by next school year)</td>
<td>(e.g., more teachers and parents support the policy)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
6. Who are the leaders (list no more than five) with power to influence these issues (i.e., state representative, district superintendent, board of education, mayor, city council, principal, teacher, philanthropist)?

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Have you met with them? □ Yes □ No
Are they supportive of your solution? □ Yes □ No

Policy campaign
7. Do you have long- and short-term goals for this campaign? □ Yes □ No
Do you know who are allies and opponents? □ Yes □ No
Do you have a communications strategy? □ Yes □ No
How will you organize other supporters? ____________________________________________
Do you have a budget and funding to support this campaign? □ Yes □ No

8. Have you identified a policymaker to sponsor and champion this new policy? □ Yes □ No

9. Have you identified every step of the potential legislative/administrative process? □ Yes □ No
Do you have advocacy strategies for every step? □ Yes □ No
Do you have contingency strategies? □ Yes □ No

Policy campaign wrap-up
10. If you win, how will you engage with policymakers and key implementers to ensure the new policy meets your needs and expectations?

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

11. If you lose, how will you capture what you learned? How will you reinvigorate people's spirits to keep the work moving forward?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Resources
- Planning to Win: The Just Enough Guide for Campaigners
- DC Office of the Student Advocate, Parent Empowerment Toolkit: Tools for Effective Advocacy
- National PTA, Family Resources