

TIPS FOR MEETING WITH LOCAL SCHOOL OFFICIALS

- Have core committee meet informally with school officials to discuss starting an agricultural education program.
- Work with state agricultural education staff to determine appropriate official to contact if you are unsure which school official is responsible for initiating new programs. In most cases, the contact person is the school principal.
- Understand the local political climate when making contact.
- Collect/create resources to present to school officials to support creation of agricultural education program. Include:
 - Talking points about agricultural education.
 - Letters of support from local/state administrators about agricultural education
 - Economic impact of SAE's (Surveys and information provided in Step 2.)
 - Graduation/drop-out rate of Ag Ed concentrators/completers
 - College entry/completion data
 - Projected enrollment percentage of student body – based on interest surveys, what is your goal?
 - Standardized testing results of agricultural education students versus non-agricultural education students. (Use the Nevada study provided in Step 2, if this information is not available for your state.)
 - Curriculum crosswalk to national academic standards (Link to national standards is provided in Step 1.)
- Suggest that your school officials visit a model agricultural education program in your state.
 - Your state agricultural education director should be able to provide you with a list of programs to visit that will illustrate the qualities of a good agricultural education program.
 - It might be beneficial if the committee and school officials go to the visit together.