

TESTIFYING AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Most threats to evolution education occur at the level of local school boards. Testifying at school board meetings is an effective way to communicate your opposition to anti-evolution proposals and may be critical for halting these efforts before damaging policies are implemented.

WHEN AND HOW ARE MEETINGS CONDUCTED?

School board policies differ from district to district. Most school board meetings are open and allow time for public comment, though some require signing up in advance. Find out how you can be added to the official agenda to ensure that you will have time for your comments. Check your school board's website or call the district office for details.

BRING EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

While you may not have much time to deliver your presentation, you can provide people with take-home materials. This will allow you to provide more detailed information and keep people thinking about the issue after the meeting ends.

BRING SUPPORTERS

Connect with neighbors, scientists, teachers, clergy, and community leaders who share your views and encourage them to attend the meeting. Having a critical mass of evolution education supporters will make an impact on school board officials. Consider wearing buttons or matching T-shirts to convey a sense of unity.

NETWORK

Personal connections can be very valuable in mobilizing people to act. Show up to the meeting early and stay late so that you can meet others, share information, and identify supporters. Talk with opponents as well: you may find more common ground than you would've thought.

Pass around a sign-up sheet for people interested in receiving and sharing evolution-related information.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

NCSE's [12 Tips for Testifying at School Board Meetings](#)

[Click here](#) for a PowerPoint presentation you can use (and modify) to help you discuss the importance of teaching evolution.