

# CONTACT ELECTED OFFICIALS

## HOW TO GET A STATE PROCLAMATION PASSED

Speech and debate changes lives. National Speech and Debate Education Day is a great way to celebrate educators, inspire students, celebrate your success and raise awareness about the benefits of participating in speech and debate. We need your help to ensure your state recognizes National Speech and Debate Education Day on March 2, 2018. Here are a few tips to help you get a state resolution passed.

- 1** Look up your local state representatives online: <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>
- 2** **Ask yourself, do we have any connections to elected officials?** The best place to start is asking your school communication staffer, school district officials, or school advocacy groups. They may already work with elected officials in your district, and could easily reach out to them about National Speech and Debate Education Day. Don't forget to think about parents!
- 3** **Email your local representative.** If possible, use your school email account! *(See the email template at right. Editable email and proclamation templates can also be found online at [www.SpeechandDebateDay.org](http://www.SpeechandDebateDay.org).)*
- 4** **Report back to your NSDA contact** and tell us if you need any additional help. What did you hear from your elected official? *(Not sure who your NSDA contact is? Email [shelby.young@speechanddebate.org](mailto:shelby.young@speechanddebate.org) to find out.)*
- 5** **Follow up with your elected official.** Once they have agreed to get the proclamation passed, make sure to ask them the following:
  - When will it be read on the floor?
  - What day and time?
  - Can my speech and debate team attend?
  - Can we take pictures to share with our school and the national organization?
- 6** **Follow up with your NSDA contact!** Make sure to tell us all about your success! Send us photos, videos, and tag us on social media @speechanddebate using #SpeechandDebateDay. We will share your success and can help you write a press release to get local media coverage.

### EMAIL TEMPLATE TO ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Dear [TITLE] [NAME],

My name is [NAME], and I'm a teacher at [SCHOOL NAME] in [CITY]. Along with teaching, I also coach speech and debate. I can tell you first-hand that this activity transforms students. From building confidence, improving communication, and increasing critical thinking skills, to better preparing students for college, speech and debate activities provide life skills vital to a young person's success in the future. I'm hoping you will help me get a state resolution passed, acknowledging March 2, 2018, as National Speech and Debate Education Day.

The United States Senate working on a resolution designating March 2, 2018, as National Speech and Debate Education Day. Last year, the National Speech & Debate Association worked with more than 25 states across the country to pass state resolutions. Will you help us get this passed in [STATE]?

On this day, coaches, teachers, students, parents, and administrators across the country will be celebrating the life-changing power of speech and debate. Please help us support the thousands of students, teachers, and coaches participating in this activity in [STATE]. Attached is a copy of the resolution.

Thank you very much for your time. Please let me know if you have any questions.

[YOUR NAME]  
[YOUR TITLE]  
[SCHOOL]  
[CONTACT INFORMATION]

For more tools and resources, download the complete Team Tool Kit at [www.SpeechandDebateDay.org](http://www.SpeechandDebateDay.org).



National Speech and Debate Education Day  
2018 Team Tool Kit  
March 2, 2018 | [www.SpeechandDebateDay.org](http://www.SpeechandDebateDay.org)