

The 2023 election season once again brought unexpected change in the political dynamic at the state legislature – a DFL trifecta in the governor’s office, the state senate, and the state house of representatives.

Because of the large number of retirements and election changes, there will be a lot of new faces to get to know. Twenty-eight percent of the legislators are new to the capitol. This amounts to 71 new members (47 in the House; 24 in the Senate).

The first weeks following the election will be busy for the incoming members. After voting on party leadership, caucuses in both bodies will establish their committee structure, appoint committee chairs, and make committee assignments. Members will also pick their offices and seats in the respective chambers. So, it will take some time for the dust to settle with the incoming legislature.

While we wait for the dust to settle, now is a good time for you to begin developing or strengthening relationships with your legislators. Ways to connect:

- Send a congratulatory note to your senators and representatives (whether returning or newly elected). Invite them to meet with you one-one at your district office or a local establishment in your community.
- Invite them to take a tour of your school district.
- Invite them to speak at a school board meeting or work session and ask them to share with you what they hope to see in the next legislative session.

These connection points will help them learn about your district, ask questions on issues important to your school community, and gives you a chance to hear from them about what they hope to see in the next legislative session.

If they are returning legislators, you can find their contact information [here](#). Newly elected legislators do not have their office set up yet, so it is best to find their information on their campaign websites or from the [Secretary of State’s office](#).

Thank you for taking the time to make these connections. They are a beginning first step in advocating on our priorities at the state capitol.