In-District Meeting

In-district meetings are a great way to meet with your members of Congress or their staff to talk about Girl Up and our advocacy goals, while also rallying your club together. The process to schedule and hold a meeting though can be a little tough, so hopefully we can break it down a little for you here. First, find out who your representative and senators are in the Girl Up Advocacy App. Then follow these steps to be an advocacy all-star:

Schedule the Meeting

- Request a meeting by calling your representative’s or senator’s district office, sending an email or filling out a form on their website.
- Ask to be in touch with the scheduler. Introduce yourself as a constituent, and mention that you are interested in meeting with your member of Congress to talk about the right to quality education for the most vulnerable girls around the world.
- Request a date for the meeting. If you schedule your meeting during a Congressional recess, there is a chance your member of Congress might be in town and able to meet with you directly. The congressional recess calendar can be found in the Girl Up Advocacy App under ‘calendar’.
- Once you have scheduled your meeting, call a few days in advance to confirm.

*Scheduling Tip: If you are having a hard time scheduling a meeting with your member of Congress try asking if you can schedule a meeting with their staffer who handles foreign affairs.

Be Prepared

- Download the Girl Up Advocacy app on iTunes or the Google Play store. In the app, you’ll find your talking points, information about your member of Congress and other resources. Explore everything the app has to offer to become the ultimate advocate.
- In the app, click “About Your Representative” to learn more about your member of Congress and whether s/he has supported similar legislation in the past. Personalize your talking points to appeal to your representative’s key issues and concerns.
- To find facts and what you should be saying during the meeting click on “Talking Points”.
- Rehearse. Run through your talking points and what you plan to say during the meeting, especially if you are bringing a group of people to your meeting. Remember, you should make it personal. Think of any questions you may want to ask too.

Blow Them Away

- Dress professionally. Plan to wear business casual attire (i.e. semi-professional – like nice pants or a skirt) and pack a business card if you have one.
- Bring your agenda. It’s fine to have a printed agenda and talking points in front of you to make sure that your meeting stays on track. (Just make sure to only refer to it and don’t read from it!)

GirlUp.org
- Bring your “leave-behind” folder with more information and resources. Find Girl Up resources to include in the Girl Up Community under Resources on the Advocate page.
- Document the meeting. Take a picture with the district staff and post it on social media with #Girlswholobby (don’t forget to tag @GirlUp and your rep’s handle, too).

Follow Up

- Send a thank you directly from your app using the template email under “Thank Your Representative.” Personalize the content and send it to the staffer with whom you met (be sure to get a business card!).
- Keep in touch by following your representative on Facebook and Twitter. In the app, use “Tweet @Congress” to easily send a tweet with your rep’s handle and our messaging.
- We want to hear how well you did. In the app, use “Tell Us How It Went” to fill out a quick survey about your meeting. It’s super important for Girl Up to get that information so we can track our advocacy efforts and follow up with Congressional offices.

Keep Track

- It’s important to see if your advocacy efforts are having a result. On GovTrack.us or Congress.gov, keep an eye on H.R. 2153 and S. 1071, Keeping Girls in School Act and track whether your representative or senators have signed on in support as a cosponsor. Until you see her/his name listed, keep periodically following up.
- Once your representative's senators cosponsor (happy dance!), then it’s time to say a big THANK YOU. Send a thank you letter, deliver a thank you poster to the local district office, or ask every member of your club to tweet a thank you message at your member of Congress. Pretty much, you can’t say thank you enough!