

## Sample Vision Letter

Dear Marissa,

This year, I decided to focus on advocating for issues in my school. I think I had done this informally before, but now I made a specific plan and carried through. Throughout the year, I identified issues that were important to my school, such as expanding our technology instruction, supporting our struggling readers, and increasing the rigor throughout all our classes.

After I identified my issues, I drafted a list of ways to advocate for these changes to all stakeholders—teachers, parents, business partners, and district office personnel. Then I began to talk informally to those stakeholders to see whether anyone else was on board with these changes and would support my advocacy efforts. So many people volunteered, I was amazed.

We worked together as a group to prioritize our issues, identify specific action steps, and divide responsibilities among the members of the group. One thing that surprised me was that they came up with ideas I had not considered. Throughout the year, they talked to other people, held information meetings and professional development, and asked for financial support for our technology program.

The results were amazing. By the end of the year, 100% of our teachers were committed to supporting our struggling readers, increasing rigor in all classes, and expanding our technology instruction. Not only were they committed, they had already begun to implement what they could, such as instructional strategies for scaffolding reading and for increasing rigor. Two teachers wrote a grant for our technology program, one posted a project on DonorsChoose, and a group of teachers and students presented to the School Board about our needs.

I learned that advocacy is truly an action—one that is critical to effectively impact your school. And it works best when you collaborate with others to make change happen.

Thanks for your support,

Pete