

# Advocacy Day for Access & Independence Youth Engagement Guide for Teachers

**Wednesday, April 13, from 10 am to 12 pm, SC  
Statehouse & Online**

Advocacy Day for Access & Independence is our day to use the grounds of the South Carolina State House to rally and call on the lawmakers to Unlock Barriers, advocate for disability rights, and a Barrier-Free SC! Advocacy Day for Access & Independence was first created as an initiative in the State Plan for Independent Living in 2014, its inaugural gathering attracted over 300 South Carolina residents in May 2014. Since then, support has grown to 30 organizations statewide all unified to ensure people with disabilities have equal access and opportunity. People with disabilities face unnecessary and discriminatory barriers to full and integrated community participation. Advocacy Day for Access and Independence will shine a light on the barriers in hopes of improving the lives of all South Carolinians.

## **Advocacy Day for Access & Independence is a hybrid event.**

You have the power to choose how you wish to participate. Come and engage with us at our Statehouse speeches and events, or join the Livestream virtually through YouTube, where participants can watch, leave comments, and start live conversations. State legislators and officials as well as activists from the disability community will be speaking about the barriers that South Carolinians with disabilities regularly face and the ways we can fix them. Both in-person and online viewers will be walked through the process of contacting their representatives about the issues that matter to them, and they will be provided with powerful tools to make collective action easier than ever before.

## **What about accessibility?**

As always, the SC Access & Independence Network is committed to making all of our programming fully accessible for all people, with and without disabilities. Our in-person and online gatherings will be a model of online accessibility and accommodations. CART live-captioning services and American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will be available to all viewers throughout the event. Thanks to innovations in technology, we can connect easier than ever with one another online. This is especially important for people with disabilities, who have access to virtual spaces, conversations, and opportunities like never before. We hope that through this hybrid event and the many others happening during this time, people's perspectives begin to shift about what accessibility and accommodations look like. They benefit everyone and are much easier to use than one might think.

## Register your class to attend, either online or in person

Visit <https://unlockingbarriers-sc.org/register/> to get started!

## Get to know the issue areas of focus for 2022

Visit <https://unlockingbarriers-sc.org/barriers/> for the official details behind our key issue areas of focus, the barriers, and how lawmakers can unlock them.

1. Employment
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. ADA Coordinators & Community Access

## Pre-Event or Attending Virtually: Advocacy Day Activities

The following activities can be done before Advocacy Day, or during Advocacy day between live-streamed speeches.

### Videos

- You can show clips from Netflix's [Crip Camp](#) (the official website includes education activities as well)
  - [Trailer](#)
  - [Full Movie](#)
  - [Educator Discussion Guide](#)
  - content warning/disclaimers:
    - [Over 18s](#)
    - [Under 18s](#)
- Show clips from [Bottom Dollars](#) (the official website includes education activities as well)
  - Clips, and full movie download at the link

### Discussions

- Research disability rights activists:
  - Alice Wong
  - Judy Heumann
  - Annie Segarra
  - Lolo Spencer
  - Just to name a few! You can find your own and encourage students to find their own as well!

- Lead a discussion on the [barriers \(linked here\)](#) identified as state issues and how those impact students
  - Transportation
  - Employment
  - Housing
  - Community Access / ADA Coordinators
- Find your representatives and discuss their record on voting for or against measures affecting disability rights and access
  - [South Carolina Legislature](#)
  - [Find Your Legislators](#)
  - Senate (US and state)
  - House (US and state)
- Find the employment first and subminimum wage bills
  - Check out the “How do I” page on the State Legislature website.
    - Click through to learn how to find bills and more!
    - Two important bills we’ll be talking about during Advocacy Day are:
      - The Employment First Initiative Act: H. 3244
      - Phasing out Subminimum Wage: S. 533
  - There is also an Android and iOS [mobile app](#) that can be downloaded from either the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. The mobile app makes it easier to know what's happening at the South Carolina State House by providing a means for you to follow Members, Committees, Meetings, and Bills and receive near real-time push notification alerts on your tablet or smartphone.
    - Search in your app store for “SC Legislature” to download!
    - The app is free
    - Students can keep this on their devices if they choose, and can become more engaged with state government!
    - Push notifications tell you when bills are progressing, so students can follow them from start to finish!

## Pre-Event Projects

- Write letters/postcard to your representatives
  - [Use our postcard template](#) to print and mail to representatives!
  - Some postcards will also be at the in-person event at the statehouse!
- Make a poster with disability rights slogans
- As a class, school, or individual make a sign, prop, statue, or art piece representing your perspective on the disability rights movement
  - Feel free to add some school pride to it as well!

## In Person Advocacy Day Activities

- Listen to the speakers throughout the event
- Make a poster at our poster station
- Letter/postcard to your representative with materials from our poster station
- Write what access means to you on the large chalkboard
- [State house scavenger hunt](#)
- **Optional:** Find your representative in the statehouse and deliver a postcard