## Strategic Communication:

Navigating Policy and Politics in a Competing
Information Environment



Denver, Colorado July 1-2, 2015 Stakeholder
Support,
Message
Refinement, &
Continuous
Improvement
Process

Gaining Champions: How do state education agencies (SEAs) pull people together to move priorities forward? How do SEAs know if their plans are working?

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# STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION: NAVIGATING POLICY AND POLITICS



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### STAKEHOLDER CLASSIFICATION TOOL

**Preferred** Capacity **Sphere** Current Group/ or Priority Area Key and Reach of Influence Classification Individual Channels of Focus Issues Name

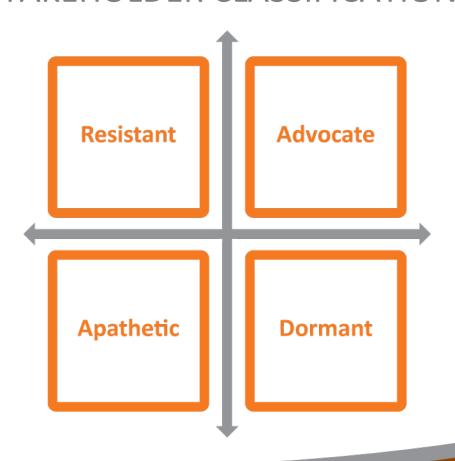


## **CLASSIFICATION PROCESS**





## STAKEHOLDER CLASSIFICATIONS





### STAKEHOLDER CLASSIFICATION ATTRIBUTES

#### **Advocate**

- Action-and Behavior-oriented Messages
- Endorsements, letter-writing campaigns, influencing their network, attending functions

#### Resistant

- Engage outside of privately to avoid public disagreement
- Identify "honest brokers" and assess their influence

#### **Dormant**

- Determine reasons for inactivity lack of awareness, not impacted by, lack of interest
- Timing and persistence may convert to Advocate

#### **Apathetic**

- Difficult to focus resources and engage
- Often moved to engagement by media, community voices and a "cause"







## MEASURING PROGRESS: TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGY









- ✓ SEO content analysis
- ✓ Real-time research and campaign insights
- ✓ Influencer and detractor identification and engagement
  - ✓ Leverage fans to spread brand messaging
- √ Topic suggestions with the highest likelihood of success











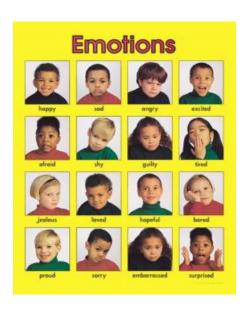


# DON'T DISMISS THE POWER OF PERSONAL RELATIONS, PHONE CONVERSATIONS AND IN-PERSON MEETINGS





### **EMOTIONAL APPEAL**



"appear to influence what we notice, what we learn, what we remember, and ultimately the kinds of judgments and decisions we make."

Forgas, J.P. Affective influences on interpersonal behavior: Towards understanding the role of affect in everyday interactions. In J.P. Forgas (ed.), *Affect in Social Thinking and Behavior.* New York: Psychology Press, 2006, pp. 269–290.





INSTEAD



Informational ambiguity can result in emotional "anxiety" that leads to "resistance" and "discontent"

✓ Keep Message Simple✓ Avoid Jargon✓ Use Positive andOptimistic Messaging



## MUNICIPAL PRE-K CAMPAIGN: PRE-K4SA







# PROGRESS TODAY IS FOR THEIR PROSPEROUS TOMORROW



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## Thank you for your participation!







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