



Wendy Dodge

Wendy Dodge joined The Southern Group in 2023 after an impactful career in education policy, including serving as Senior Director of Legislative Affairs, Policy and Legislative Liaison in the Polk County Public School (PCPS) System. As the longest standing legislative affairs director for a school board in Florida, Wendy brings with her deep knowledge of the legislative process and a keen understanding of the state's education budget and how to shape policy.

During her time at PCSC, Wendy fiercely advocated for students, families, and teachers within the district. She helped PCSC grow to one of the seven largest school districts in the state. As Senior Director, Wendy steered all legislative matters pertaining to the school district, facilitating the development and implementation of state and federal policy priorities, and managing communication between the Florida State Legislature and US Congress. She led the school system through a complete policy reform and oversaw a continuous process of policy updates. She also served on the Superintendent's Cabinet and advised school board members on all legislative matters.

Previously, Wendy served as coordinator of government affairs for Badcock Home Furnishing & More before moving to the Polk County Public School System. As the coordinator of government affairs, Wendy managed legislative issues on a federal level and in seven southeastern states on behalf of the company and developed a grassroots lobbying initiative for independent store owners.

Wendy currently serves as Secretary/Treasurer of the Florida Educational Legislative Liaisons (FELL) where she continues her work of bridging the gap between education and legislation. She formerly served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Florida Association of Professional Lobbyists (FAPL) and Legislative and Political Action Committee Chairperson for the Florida Association of School Administrators (FASA).

Wendy earned her bachelor's degree in telecommunications from Michigan State University. She resides in Lakeland with her daughter, Amber.



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