

NATIONAL PTA®

2015 Public Policy Agenda: Executive Summary

In the 114th Congress, National PTA will work with the U.S. Congress and Administration to advance policy in the following areas to ensure that all children reach their highest potential.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act—No Child Left Behind (ESEA-NCLB) remains a top priority for National PTA. PTA will advocate for specific improvements to the law that prioritize capacity building for the implementation of systemic and sustainable family engagement practices that increase student achievement and accelerate needed reforms. PTA is fighting for other improvements to ESEA-NCLB, including access to well-rounded curricula, equity protections for disadvantaged populations and accountability to parents and the community.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

To be competitive in a global economy, the education of our nation's children must begin long before they enter kindergarten. National PTA supports federal and state incentives for high-quality child care and preschool programs for children ages zero to five. These programs should be affordable and accessible, coordinated at all levels, and characterized by high standards for teaching, training, health and safety. Additionally, PTA strongly encourages the inclusion of a family engagement component into all early childhood education programs.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Through the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), National PTA will continue to advocate to ensure that all students graduate from high school college- and career ready, will see that family engagement remains a fundamental principle of IDEA and will work to ensure that the rights of children with special needs and their parents are fully protected under the law.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Federal investment in quality education is critical to our nation's long-term success. PTA supports replacing the sequester cuts with a balanced and fair approach, protecting vital education investments in all federal deficit reduction efforts, securing dedicated funding for family engagement in education, increasing funding for IDEA, increasing investments in quality early learning programs, and safeguarding funding streams for disadvantaged populations.

(cont'd on reverse)

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JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

PTA continues to advocate for policies that prevent children and youth from entering the juvenile justice system and protect those currently in the system. PTA supports a reauthorization of the JJDP Act that keeps youth who commit non-criminal offenses out of secure juvenile corrections facilities and that extends the law's core protections to all children under 18 years of age.

SCHOOL SAFETY

School safety is a crucial component of effective learning. National PTA believes that the safety of children and faculty in all school settings is a fundamental right and has made it the priority for our programmatic and advocacy work. In 2015, National PTA will work to support federal programming and policies related to bullying prevention, the protection of children from gun violence, and student data privacy.

CHILD NUTRITION

PTA supports continued implementation of the Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, including healthy guidelines for all foods sold in schools, strengthening local wellness policies and improving nutrition standards for meals served as part of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. Additionally, PTA will advocate for improvements to child nutrition and school meal programs in the upcoming reauthorization of the Act.

This document is a brief summary of the National PTA's 2015 Public Policy Agenda. To review all of National PTA's federal policy recommendations, please see our 2015 Public Policy Agenda, available at PTA.org.

For additional information, please contact the National PTA Office of Government Affairs at (703) 518-1200.

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