

ADVOCATE WITH PTA



What is Advocacy?

In the context of PTA, advocacy is supporting and speaking up for children—in schools, in communities, and before government bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children.

Advocating for Federal Policy

PTA is the oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy association in the United States. Founded in 1897, PTA has a long, successful history of influencing federal policy to promote the education, health and well-being of all children—resulting in kindergarten classes, child labor laws, school lunch programs, a juvenile justice system, and strengthened parent-teacher relationships. National PTA continues that legacy today by fighting for change under its federal public policy priorities:

- Family Engagement in Education
- Quality Education for All Children
- Adequate Funding for Education
- Child Health and Nutrition
- Safe Schools and Communities
- Fair Juvenile Justice Laws

Advocating for State Laws

State laws have a major impact on education and child welfare. State and local PTAs can play a pivotal role in promoting PTA priorities by involving their members in advocacy to help secure adequate state and local laws for our students.

Ways to Advocate

There are many ways to be an advocate! Some ways families can be involved are to:

- Meet with school leaders to discuss a topic of importance to the district.
- Attend a school board meeting and/or serve on the school board.
- Work with the school and state leaders to implement strong family engagement policies.
- Sign up for the National PTA Takes Action Network to get updates on important federal policies and send messages to your members of Congress. Check your state PTA's website to see if they have a network as well.
- Write a letter to the editor to stress the importance of family engagement and other PTA policy priorities.
- Educate your members of Congress and their staff on PTA's federal public policy priorities.

Advocacy Resources

National PTA has many advocacy resources for our members and state affiliates that are easy to find and easy to use. Here is an overview of the resources and how to find them:

Advocacy Toolkit: The Advocacy Toolkit contains helpful information on how to work with legislative leaders and the media, as well as the federal budget and legislative processes. It also includes videos on PTA's advocacy history, and "lobbying the PTA way."

PTA.org/AdvocacyToolkit

Takes Action Network: The PTA Takes Action Network is the hub of National PTA's federal advocacy activities. You can look up your members of Congress and send messages on PTA priorities, catch up on news impacting children, and connect with PTA.

PTA.org/TakesAction

Federal Policy Agenda: National PTA prepares a Federal Public Policy Agenda (PPA) each year that outlines PTA's policy priorities and recommendations to Congress. The PPA website includes the full agenda, plus an executive summary in both English and Spanish, and webinars.

PTA.org/Advocacy

Election Guides: Created in partnership with Nonprofit VOTE, these materials provide PTAs with election-related information, including candidate forums, ballot measures and election engagement.

PTA.org/ElectionGuides

Common Core Toolkit: The toolkit will assist PTAs located in states implementing the Common Core Standards and revised assessments. The toolkit features our *Parent's Guide to Success* for each state, as well as assessment guides, relevant articles, and advocacy information.

PTA.org/CommonCore

Special Education Toolkit: This toolkit includes information on federal disability policy, navigating the special education system, helpful acronyms, and a list of outside resources for parents of children with special needs.

PTA.org/SpecialEducation

Support and Training

PTA offers its members support and training for their advocacy efforts, such as:

- Policy Workshops
- PTA Federal and State Legislative Chairs
- Legislative Committee
- Government Affairs Staff

Join the PTA Takes Action
Network today!

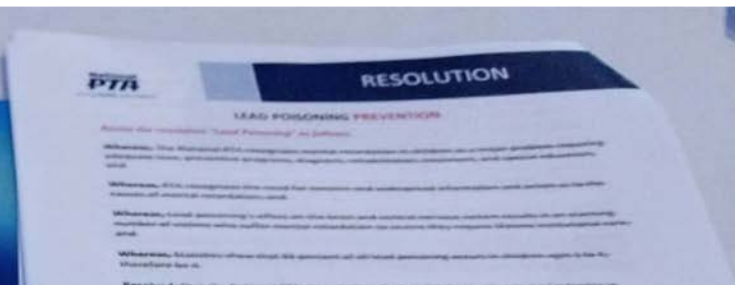
Sign up at PTA.org/TakesAction











RESOLUTION

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION

- Whereas, The American Academy of Pediatrics along with other stakeholder groups including but not limited to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), have reported on the risks of childhood lead poisoning and the need for prevention; and
- Whereas, According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, childhood lead toxicity has been recognized for over 100 years, higher blood lead levels are associated with lower IQ scores, intellectual deficits, language difficulties, attention problems, diminished academic abilities, and behavior disorders including attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder and conduct disorder; and exposure to lead causes neurological damage, behavioral and learning disabilities, and hinders the ability of students to reach their full potential as adults; and
- Whereas, Exposure to lead can result in lifelong health effects, and because lead can mobilize during pregnancy, exposure can result in multigenerational impacts, and there are no safe levels of lead in children's blood or safe levels of exposure to lead; and
- Whereas, Children are exposed to lead from different sources such as paint, solder, and old building materials, particularly in schools, consumer products (toys, food items and cosmetics) and through different pathways (air, food, water, dust, and soil); and
- Whereas, There are numerous sources of lead that can be found in the environment including lead chips, grit and dust from lead paint and its removal, contaminated water, polluted soils and air emissions; and lead exposure can also result from certain occupational and recreational activities of individuals and their families, including certain artistic pursuits, marksmanship/shooting firearms, and consuming game; and now, therefore be it
- Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent associations support the removal of all sources of lead from use, including its complete removal of lead from all paints, building materials, and consumer products; and be it further
- Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent associations encourage the safe and responsible removal of lead from existing uses, including lead in paints, plumbing, and in other building materials; and be it further
- Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent associations advocate for lead testing and the remediation of lead contaminated soils and water; and be it further
- Resolved, That the National PTA and its constituent associations promote advocacy around

policy changes to prevent lead poisoning.

Adopted: by the 1976 Convention Delegates

Revised and Adopted: by the 2019 Convention Delegates