

Provide Equitable and Continued Investments in Kids

National PTA urges Congress to build off its recent investments in education and increase crucial and necessary federal funding to benefit our nation's children. The long-term success of our nation depends on robust and equitable public investments in our education system. Our association has long advocated to ensure all children have access to equitably-funded public schools that improve their overall well-being and help them achieve academic success.

From a lack of textbooks and technology to crumbling infrastructure and not enough school counselors to support students and provide mental health services, there have been far too many children left with insufficient resources. This is why National PTA and our 3.5 million members across the country advocate to ensure schools have the proper resources to help every child learn, grow and succeed. **To make every child's potential a reality, Congress must:**



Raise the Caps

The fiscal year (FY) 2020 budget caps established by the 2011 Budget Control Act must be raised to avoid automatic spending cuts to education and protect existing federal investments in education.

- Without an increase in discretionary spending caps, domestic spending will endure a \$55 billion cut. This will translate into a nearly \$20 billion cut in education, health and workforce funding.
- For example, in FY 2018 Congress raised the budget caps which provided an additional \$2.6 billion in funding for education overall from the fiscal year 2017 and allowed the Statewide Family Engagement Centers Program (SFEC) to be fully funded at its authorized amount.



Increase funding for the Statewide Family Engagement Centers to \$15 million

The Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFEC) is a bipartisan program that provides competitive federal grants to statewide entities to promote and implement evidence-based family engagement strategies that further the academic progress of our nation's children.

- Currently, SFECs are supporting children and families in 13 states around the country. Unfortunately, due to funding constraints, families without a center in their state have not been able to benefit from this program.
- We urge Congress to increase funding to at least \$15 million in FY 2020 and put this program on a funding path to ensure that all families across the country benefit in the coming years.



Pass the Rebuild America's Schools Act (H.R. 865/S. 266)

A growing body of research shows that high-quality facilities help improve academic achievement, reduce student and staff absences, and reduce suspensions. Despite the positive effects of adequate facilities, far too many children and adults are in schools that are unsafe and unhealthy.

- There are about 100,000 public K-12 school facilities across the country. On any given school day, about 20% of Americans spend time in a school building. However, the average public school is nearly 50 years old.
- The Rebuild America's Schools Act would create a \$70 billion grant program and \$30 billion tax credit bond program targeted at high-poverty schools with facilities that pose health and safety risks to students and staff and would create over 1.9 million jobs by addressing critical physical and digital infrastructure needs in schools.
- The bill would also help develop a comprehensive national database on the condition of public-school facilities and expand access to high-speed broadband to ensure that public schools have the reliable and high-speed internet access they need for digital learning.
- Congress must ensure that public schools are included in any infrastructure package which is likely to be considered later this year. Schools are a critical part of our nation's infrastructure and it is essential that investments are made to repair, renovate and modernize school facilities to ensure they are safe, healthy and well-equipped to advance student achievement, help grow our economy and improve our competitiveness as a nation.



Cosponsor and Pass a Public Schools Week Resolution

March 25-29, 2019 is Public Schools Week, a time to celebrate the achievements our public schools are making and honor the significant contributions and accomplishments of students, parents, educators, school support personnel and education advocates in our public schools.

- Congress must pass a resolution that calls on local, state and federal lawmakers to prioritize strengthening the nation's public schools ensuring every child can attend schools that offer a high-quality educational experience.
- Nine out of every 10 students attend a public school that welcomes every child— regardless of ability, race, wealth, language, country of origin or needs. The long-term success of our nation depends on robust and equitable public investments in public schools. Public education must be strengthened with fair funding and continue to be governed by public officials who are accountable to the public.
- Congress must ensure public funds are not diverted to any private school choice proposal and/or voucher system, including tax credit scholarship programs, which are unaccountable to the public and can pick and choose who to educate.