



National PTA will work with the 117th Congress, the U.S. Department of Education and the Biden/Harris Administration to ensure that every child has access to a fair and equitable education.

Parents and families have always played an important role in education. However, far too often when policy is considered and legislation is crafted, family engagement is seen as an afterthought or a “check the box” exercise.

National PTA calls on Congress and the Administration to prioritize family engagement at the outset of all policy discussions and to meaningfully embed family engagement throughout education policy.

National PTA **PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES** for the 117th Congress

PTA Calls on Congress and the Administration to Meaningfully Incorporate Policies that Promote Safe, Supportive and Inclusive Practices in Schools for All Students.

PTA firmly believes that all students—including students from historically marginalized populations—have the right to a quality, equitable education in a safe, supportive and inclusive school. PTA believes that the education system should engage in rigorous self-examination to identify and eliminate practices and policies which are systemically racist. PTA supports policies and legislation that ensure equity for every student, are grounded in social justice and support the whole child and family.

Policies and legislation must:

- ✓ Support every student’s mental health and provide and connect students with necessary behavioral and mental health resources at school and in their community.
- ✓ Encourage schools to use positive behavioral interventions and supports that are effective, fair and consistently implemented. Such practices may include restorative justice and trauma-informed care.
- ✓ Promote social emotional learning, including resources for families to support this critical practice at home.

PTA Calls on Congress and the Administration to Increase Federal Investment in Public Education.

The long-term success of our nation depends on quality federal investments in our education system. PTA has long advocated to ensure children have access to adequately-funded public schools that improve their overall well-being and allow students to reach their fullest potential. The federal

government plays a critical role in ensuring a high-quality public education for every student through meaningful investments which support states, districts and schools.

Policies and legislation must:

- ✓ Ensure that schools have adequate funding during the COVID-19 pandemic to address a myriad of immediate and pressing needs.
- ✓ Increase funding for the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFECs) by 50%.
- ✓ Fully fund the promised 40% of the extra cost for services provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- ✓ Increase funding for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) including tripling funding for Title I and funding Title IV-A, the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), at its authorized level of \$1.6 billion.

PTA Calls on Congress and the Administration to Invest in School Infrastructure.

There are over 130,000 public K-12 school facilities serving our nation’s teachers and children across the country. PTA believes that every student—regardless of their family income—must have access to a safe, welcoming and high-quality public school. Given state budget shortfalls and the need for economic recovery, now is the time for the federal government to invest in school infrastructure.

Policies and legislation must:

- ✓ Address health hazards including poor air quality, substandard heating and cooling equipment, unsafe drinking water supply and lead contamination.



National PTA PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES for the 117th Congress



- ✓ Enhance digital infrastructure to ensure equity.
- ✓ Redesign schools to meet community needs such as school-based health clinics, after school and summer learning opportunities, and career technical education facilities for children and adults.
- ✓ Modernize schools, including making them green, so their energy consumption and carbon footprints are reduced.

PTA Calls on Congress to Address the Reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act.

Healthy children learn better and are more productive—both in and out of the classroom. Strong nutritional standards in our nation’s schools are essential to combating the concerning obesity rates among children. Providing our nation’s youth with healthy food options and nutrition education is key to their long-term health and success.

Policies and legislation must:

- ✓ Boost child health by including robust school meal requirements on milk, whole grains, fruits and vegetables, calorie limits, and limits on sugar and sodium.
- ✓ Require schools to make nutrition information more readily available and enhance opportunities for parents to participate in the development of local school wellness policies.
- ✓ Ensure all students have access to school meal programs.
- ✓ Deliver technical assistance and resources to schools that are not meeting the nutrition standards.
- ✓ Establish guidelines to provide adequate time during the school day for students to eat and to recreate.

PTA Calls on Congress to Support Sensible Solutions to Gun Violence.

No parent should have to fear for the safety of their child every time they leave home. Unfortunately, far too often, lives are lost or changed forever due to gun violence. PTA calls on Congress and the Administration to immediately address the many factors that contribute to the rampant gun violence in the United States.

Policies and legislation must:

- ✓ Fund research on the causes and effects of gun violence on youth and communities, as well as evidence-based strategies to reduce gun violence.
- ✓ Establish education programs to teach students, parents and community members about gun safety and violence prevention.
- ✓ Require a waiting period and a comprehensive background check for all individuals prior to purchasing a firearm.
- ✓ Restrict internet gun sales, including kits that can be used to make and modify guns.
- ✓ Ban access to military-style semi-automatic assault weapons.



For additional information on National PTA's Public Policy Agenda, visit [PTA.org/PolicyAgenda](https://www.pta.org/PolicyAgenda) or contact the Government Affairs staff at GovtAffairs@PTA.org.

About National PTA

National PTA® comprises millions of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of family engagement in schools. PTA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit association that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health and welfare of children and youth. For more information, visit [PTA.org](https://www.pta.org).