

Subject: Highlights from the FY 2023 Federal Omnibus Appropriations Bill  
To: National PTA Board of Directors, All Governance Committees, State Presidents, State President Elects, Federal Legislative Chairs & the Legislative Committee  
From: National PTA Government Affairs

Monday, January 9, 2023

Dear PTA Leaders,

Below is a summary of the FY 2023 Federal Omnibus Appropriations Package that funds the Federal government through September 2023 and was signed into law on December 29, 2022.

***We are pleased to share that the bill includes several of National PTA's top funding priorities thanks in large part to your leadership and voice in advocating for all children. Please share among your networks as appropriate.***

The final bill included several signature requests from National PTA and our partner organizations, such as:

- \$20 million for the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFEC) program, representing an increase of \$5 million more than last year and a 60 percent increase since 2021.
- A new, permanent and nationwide Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program, which will be a critical resource to help families cover the cost of food over the summer months when children lose access to free or reduced-price school meals. This benefit will begin in the summer of 2024 at \$40 per child per month in direct aid to families.
- \$125 million to support the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, \$50 million for community violence intervention initiatives through the U.S. Department of Justice, and \$26 million to conduct gun violence research exploring root causes and opportunities for prevention.
- Over \$500 million for suicide prevention programs and services, including programs targeted toward supporting K-12 and college students.
- \$400 million for Juvenile Justice programs representing an increase of \$360 million above FY2022 funding levels.

Further, the final bill includes an overall increase of \$3.9 billion in funding for education compared to FY2022, including a total of \$45 billion to support K-12 education nationwide. Specifically, the bill includes:

- An increase of \$850 million for Title I—which provides assistance to schools with high percentages of children from low-income families.
- An increase of over \$900 million for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), through which grants are provided to states to help provide a quality education to children with disabilities.
- \$1.3 billion for Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (Title IV-A), which support comprehensive school safety and health programs and the use of educational technology and provide students with a well-rounded education.
- \$140 million for Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) to increase awareness of mental health issues among youth, provide mental health training to school personnel, and connect students and their families to services.
- \$1.3 billion to expand summer and after-school learning opportunities through the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC).
- Increased funding for social emotional learning efforts, including \$90 million for training educators on implementing SEL and whole child strategies.
- \$150 million for Full-Service Community Schools to support integrated school and community health promotion efforts.

We know that the long-term success of our nation depends on quality federal investments in our education system, and we will continue to advocate for increased federal investment in public education to ensure all children have access to adequately funded public schools that improve their overall well-being and allow students to reach their fullest potential.

We would also like to thank the nearly 1,000 PTA advocates who took action around the 10-year anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in December and contacted their members of Congress calling for a ban on the sale and possession of assault weapons for individuals under the age of 21. Our association will continue demanding action and change from this new Congress and push for solutions to eliminate gun violence and ensure every child learns in an environment that is safe and can grow into a happy and healthy adult.

Finally, we encourage you to join us for this year's Legislative Conference (LegCon) on March 7-8 to ensure an even greater impact of our collective advocacy in the new Congress! This year will be a fully virtual experience, where you will hear about emerging issues effecting health and safety for all children and families, learn how to have an impact on policy decisions, network with fellow PTA advocates and speak with your members of Congress about issues important to you and your community. Registration opens January 10<sup>th</sup>. Please visit [www.pta.org/legcon](http://www.pta.org/legcon) for more information. For questions, contact our Government Affairs team at [govtaffairs@pta.org](mailto:govtaffairs@pta.org).