

## Background from the National PTA Bylaws Committee Regarding the 2021 Bylaws Amendments

During 2019 and 2020, the National PTA Board of Directors commissioned several studies intended to address key strategic issues and opportunities confronting the association. The findings of the studies guided National PTA's Board in the development of a new, five-year strategic plan and helped inform National PTA's Bylaws Committee on their recommended bylaws amendments this year.

For one of the studies, National PTA contracted with an outside firm to study the efficacy of National PTA's current governance processes and structure and how they align to the mission and vision of the association. Highlights from this report included feedback and recommendations to assess more deeply the size of the Board of Directors and the structure of National PTA's committees. Some of the recommendations from the study include guidance that:

- Consideration should be given to extend the terms of service and strengthen the onboarding governance processes in order for the Board to govern most effectively.
- The large size of the Board may contribute to challenges in decision-making and other governance functions.

In addition, the Bylaws Committee consulted with outside governance experts and reviewed best practices in Board and committee structure as they deliberated and provided the recommended edits this year.

Some of the best practices provided by governance experts include the following recommendations:

- Standing Committees should support the legal obligations of the Board of Directors; they rarely change focus; and typically include board members but not non-board members. Examples of Standing Committees include Finance and Audit and Governance Effectiveness (nominations, governance policies and bylaws).
- Special Committees should support the moral obligations of the Board of Directors, they often change focus according to strategic priorities, and typically include both board members and non-board members. Examples of Special Committees include Programs, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
- An organization's structure and needs are among the factors to consider in the recommended size of a Board but trends are showing are reduction in the size of non-profit Boards.