

Protect Our Children and Invest in Safe and Supportive Schools

Gun Safety and Violence Prevention

National PTA endorses the following reasonable and bipartisan solutions to address gun safety and violence prevention. **National PTA urges members of Congress to cosponsor and support the following bipartisan bills:**

1. **The STOP School Violence Act (H.R. 4909)**

- Authorizes \$50 million in grants to states and local governments to train local law enforcement, school personnel and students in evidence-based practices that improve early intervention tactics and prevent violence in our schools.
- Supports the development and implementation of school threat assessment and intervention teams as well as anonymous reporting systems to centralize the reporting of threats.

2. **The Gun Violence Research Act (H.R. 1478)**

- Repeals the Dickey amendment to lift restrictions on gun violence research at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

3. **The Fix NICS Act (S. 2135/H.R. 4434)**

- Incentivizes states and federal agencies to collaborate and improve their reporting standards to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).
- Rewards states that improve their reporting standards with federal grant preferences and incentives.
- Creates a Domestic Abuse and Violence Prevention Initiative to ensure that states have the resources they need to upload domestic abuse history to NICS so that domestic abusers are not able to purchase guns.

Our Ask for Capitol Hill

Invest in Safe & Supportive Schools

While National PTA supports robust federal investments in several foundational education programs including Title I and IDEA, Congress must invest in the programs below to ensure our children can learn and thrive in school. **National PTA urges Congress to:**

1. Fund the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFEC) program at \$10 million

- The Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFEC) is bipartisan program authorized in ESSA (Title IV-E) 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.
- SFECs were funded in the House-passed FY2018 omnibus, Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act (H.R.3219), at its authorized amount of \$10 million.

2. Adequately Invest in the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (Title IV-A)

- The Student Support and Academic Enrichment program is a flexible block grant (Title IV-A) that supports safe and healthy students through funding of comprehensive school mental health programs, drug and violence prevention programs, training on trauma-informed practices, and other health and physical education programs. The grant program also ensures school districts have the resources to support a well-rounded education and the effective use of technology in schools.
- The Title IV-A Block Grant program was authorized at \$1.65 billion under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The program has bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress. The program only received \$400 million, or less than 25% of its authorized funding, in the FY17 appropriations bill.