

New Jersey PTA Legislative Program

2010-2012

- I. New Jersey PTA Legislative Program is the authority for action by New Jersey PTA on legislation/regulations affecting the health, education and general welfare of children and youth. Resolutions and positions with intent serve to guide New Jersey PTA legislative efforts. Individually and collectively PTA members make the real difference in achieving legislative goals by informing and thereby influencing government officials about the NJPTA Legislative Program regarding child-related and parental engagement issues.
- II. The Legislative Program of the New Jersey PTA is derived from the work of the Association in home, school and community. Efforts to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth are based on the authority of the National PTA bylaws, the recognition of the home as the foundation of our national heritage, and the observation and understanding of the rights and obligations of responsible citizenship.
- III. Political action is a necessary and integral part of the PTA work in our children's total environment. PTA political action is nonpartisan and based on principles and issues, never in support of or opposition to candidates or political parties.
- IV. The following principles are basic to the consideration of any proposed legislation/regulation on which NJPTA acts:
 - A. Equal justice, privileges, opportunities, and responsibilities in every phase of life for all children and youth.
 - B. High professional standards and comprehensive evaluation for all professional and auxiliary personnel working with children and youth.
 - C. Constitutional guarantees of a thorough and efficient system of education with maximum local control of fundamental educational decisions, where possible, to serve the best interests of children and youth.
 - D. Coordination and planning by agencies dealing with children and youth, with a clear definition of the responsibility of each at every level of government.
 - E. The establishment of an equitable budgeting and taxation structure to provide children and youth in every community with an education which will prepare them to fulfill their individual potential.
 - F. Dependence on a tax structure which preserves strong, broad-based support for public schools, with opposition to any form of tuition tax credits/deductions or voucher system.
 - G. The insurance of basic survival needs of children and their families.
- V. The New Jersey PTA supports legislation/regulations which:
 - A. Provides the most comprehensive and diversified education possible for all children and youth- one that achieves quality and excellence, encourages maximum individual development, and offers equal opportunities.

- B. Secures financing for public education sufficient to provide optimum educational opportunity for all students.
- C. Provides for up-to-date education/prevention programs for children and youth on the subjects of drug/alcohol use, tobacco use, HIV/AIDS, meningitis and other related health issues..
- D. Secures adequate treatment and rehabilitation services for children and youth drug and alcohol users to return them to the community as productive citizens.
- E. Insures that all children and families have adequate food, shelter, clothing, and health care.
- F. Ensures teacher preparation programs and support services, designed to attract qualified men and women to, and retain them in, the teaching profession.
- G. Protects and improves the health of all children and youth through the prevention, treatment, and control of disease.
- H. Prevents, controls, or eliminates hazards to the safety and well-being of all children and youth.
- I. Provides/extends for all children and youth effective education, community services, and facilities directed to family well-being.
- J. Secures specialized programs for prevention of delinquency and the treatment and rehabilitation of children and youth.
- K. Provides services/facilities for the care and protection of abused, dependent, abandoned, runaway and/or homeless children and youth.
- L. Ensures educational programs that increase understanding by children and youth of the need to protect and conserve natural resources.
- M. Secures the protection of the state's environmental resources.
- N. Secures the clean up of hazardous environmental conditions.
- O. Promotes global education, including foreign languages, and multi-cultural education.
- P. Promotes quality counseling, guidance, health, and library services at all educational levels.
- Q. Educate families regarding safe foods, water, drugs, cosmetics, and medical devices.
- R. Promotes the study of New Jersey and American history as the basis of good citizenship and training.
- S. Promotes the development of mental health programs and facilities appropriate for children and youth.
- T. Promotes affordable, accessible, quality child care and preschool programs.
- U. Provide for education/prevention programs and training for teachers and children on the subject of violent behavior, including bullying.

VI. When PTA resolutions or legislative goals have been enacted into federal, state or local laws, interest must be sustained and monitoring maintained to ensure high standards of administration and enforcement.