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Click above to Learn More about NJPTA's New Partnership with Teachers' Insurance Plan of NJ.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 17: PTA Kit Registration Ends

September 25: NJ PIRC (Parent Information Resource Center) Event

Greetings!

We can all measure the remainder of the summer of 2010 in days now. Time to hit the ground running and gear up for a successful PTA year.



If you or anyone on your board needs training, contact your [County President/Advisor](#). Some counties are planning fall training events that you may be able to take advantage of.

As always, the entire New Jersey PTA Board of Directors is available to assist you with your PTA business. Have a great year!

2010 - 2011 The Official PTA Kit



Registration for the 2010-2011 Official PTA Kit is now open!

All local, council, district, and region PTAs must register to receive their Official PTA® Kit. The incoming 2010-2011 PTA president or other authorized PTA leader

must fill out the registration form to select the preferred shipping address and date for the kit.

The order form will be available through September 17, and kits have begun shipping weekly.

The Official PTA Kit is available exclusively to PTAs in good standing.

Register Now for your [Official PTA Kit!](#)

Reminders for Local PTA Officers!

A FEW REMINDERS FOR ALL NJPTA LOCAL OFFICERS TO ENSURE EACH PTA RECEIVES THEIR LOCAL UNIT PACKET THIS SUMMER!

The following were due to the NJPTA Office June 1st for your PTA to be considered in Good Standing:

- Dues for 2009-2010
- 2010-2011 Local PTA Officer's Form [Click here for the printable Officer's form.](#)
- 2009-2010 Membership Breakdown Form [Click here for the Membership Breakdown Form.](#)

Also, your Bylaws must be current (they must be resubmitted every 3 years); and audits for all years up through 2008-2009 must be submitted for your PTA to be considered in Good Standing.

Contact your County President or the NJPTA Office today if you have any questions.

Is Your Tax-Exempt Status at Risk?

All PTAs must file a yearly return or notice with the IRS. If an organization does not file as required for three consecutive years, the law provides that it automatically loses its tax-exempt status.

IRS regulations require every PTA to file a 990 form annually!

Go to IRS.gov, do a search for the 990 form that you need. It will pop up.

The 990 forms can be found at <http://www.IRS.gov>; type in the form you need in the search box at the top of the page.

If you have questions there is a toll free number to call: 1-877-829-5500.

It is in operation Monday-Friday 7:00-5:30 Central Time.

Reflections 2012-2013 Theme Search Open

Each year, the National PTA looks for its annual Theme for the Reflections Program. The student who submits the winning entry will receive \$100 and their theme will be presented at the 2011 National PTA Convention. Please review past themes [HERE](#) and use [this form \(PDF\) to enter](#). Best of luck! Visit our Reflections page for more information, tips, and forms [HERE](#)...



PTA[®] REFLECTIONS 40 Years of Achievement in the Arts

NJPTA Local PTA Kits

For All Local PTA Presidents that received their Local PTA Packet in the Mail.

Please remember to count your Membership Cards and send back the Verification Form to NJPTA!

Did you get your local unit packet?

If not why not?

Did you send your 2010-2011 officers form in?

Did you return all your membership cards and pay all your dues?

Are your bylaws current?

Do we have your 08-09 audit?

Need help? Call your County President or Contact.

Family Engagement in Education Act Update

Less than three months after its introduction in the U.S. House of Representatives, the bipartisan Family Engagement in Education Act, H.R. 5211, has been cosponsored by nearly 30 representatives from both sides of the aisle. The proposal, developed by National PTA and experts in the field, has not only gained strong Congressional support, but also helped generate momentum for including family engagement in core education reforms.



In a July 14 address to the NAACP, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced that the Administration would require parent and community engagement in all of its turnaround models in its proposal for the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the federal law also known as the No Child Left Behind Act. The secretary's announcement refers specifically to parents' engagement in turning around struggling schools through the four models proposed by the Administration: school closure, restart, turnaround, and transformation. The transformation model already requires family and community engagement, and PTA and its partners have advocated during the last year to include family engagement in the other models as well.

[Read Secretary Duncan's speech.](#)

This announcement follows the Department's May release of a new [family engagement proposal](#) that was aligned to several in the Family Engagement in Education Act, specifically doubling the Title I set-aside from 1 percent to 2 percent and including guidance based on PTA's research-based

[National Standards for Family-School Partnerships](#). The new proposal also creates a \$145 million "Family Engagement and Responsibility Fund" in which states would set-aside 1 percent of their Title I allocation to fund innovative community-based family engagement programs.

At the [2010 National PTA Annual Convention](#), several advocacy efforts were organized to gain support for H.R. 5211, The Family Engagement in Education Act. PTA members were able to take action in the National PTA Call-in Day by calling their Representatives to urge them to become cosponsors of H.R. 5211. Also, PTA members participated in a postcard campaign in support of H.R. 5211

. All postcards were hand delivered, by National PTA staff, to each Representative's office.

[View an overview and full bill text of H.R. 5211.](#)

2010 PTA Healthy Lifestyles Grant Application

2010 PTA Healthy Lifestyles Grant Application
Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. EDT, Friday,
September 10, 2010.



PTA Healthy Lifestyles

[Grant Overview](#)

PTA Healthy Lifestyles promotes good nutrition and regular physical activity in order to address the nation's childhood obesity epidemic. One-third of American children and youth are either obese or at risk of becoming obese. Increased access to high-calorie good-tasting, inexpensive foods, along with increasingly sedentary lifestyles, has contributed to the rise in childhood obesity. In addition, the reduction and elimination of recess in as many as 40 percent of U.S. school districts has limited students' physical activity during the school day. The obesity epidemic may not only decrease quality of life with the onset of diabetes, heart disease, and other chronic diseases but also reduce the life expectancy of today's children. Further, consistent findings show that obesity is often associated with poor levels of academic achievement.

But here's the good news: Increasing physical activity and improving nutrition at home and at school-through programs like PTA Healthy Lifestyles-can reduce the risk of obesity and improve the overall health of students and families.

Healthy Lifestyles Grant Application

[Click here for more information and the application.](#)

A Message from Teachers' Insurance Plan



Dear NJPTA Leaders and Members,

Thanks to our new partnership with Teachers' Insurance Plan of NJ, NJPTA leaders and members are now eligible for special auto insurance rates and services, offered only to the educational community. In addition,

Teachers' Insurance provides an exclusive fundraising program called Quotes for Cash, designed to help take PTA development goals to a new level of success. We are pleased to join forces with Teachers' Insurance because of all the excellent new benefits this partnership will bring to the State Association, local PTA chapters and each of our individual members.

Teachers' Insurance can save you an average of over \$800 per year* on auto insurance, and includes special benefits for NJPTA members that you can't get anywhere else.

Free First Class Roadside Assistance: Free towing, lock-out, battery and tire service, fluid

delivery and more.

School Zone Zero Deductibles: Your comprehensive and collision deductible is waived for incidents that happen at school, plus coverage for school property stolen from or damaged in your car.

Get Home Safe Benefit: All customers are eligible for a free one-way cab service to use as a safer option to driving their own car.

More Protection: Insurance solutions for your home, motorcycle, boat, classic car and more!

Raise Funds for Your NJPTA with Quotes for Cash!

Quotes for Cash is easy, and all chapters are already signed up! For every member who calls for a free auto insurance quote, Teachers' Insurance will donate \$20 to the NJPTA - no purchase necessary! Half will go to the State Association, and half will go to your local chapter to be used in whatever way your chapter sees fit. Then, when you join Teachers' Insurance, they will welcome you with a \$25 gift card to keep, or to use as an additional donation to your local chapter's fund.

Call 800-516-4972 for a free quote today!

Want more information?

Contact Chris Sappington at csappington@nj-teachers.com or 732-978-6052 to learn more about the Quotes for Cash program.

Visit Teachers' Insurance at www.nj-teachers.com for more information about their special auto insurance just for the New Jersey educational community.

Stop Bullying in Your School

Hundreds of thousands of children dread going to school each day to face the taunts, jeers, and humiliation inflicted by bullies. Bullies are children who intentionally and repeatedly inflict psychological or physical damage on other, less-powerful children in order to inflate their own sense of self-worth.

National PTA provides information on identifying and stopping bullying in your community. All children deserve to go to school free of intimidation. Help make your schools and neighborhoods bully-free.

Visit the Bullying Resource page [HERE...](#)

Parents: A School Zone Hazard?



Did you know that the most dangerous part of anyone's day is the time they spend in traffic? And that this is even more dangerous for school-age children and teens than for adults. That's because motor vehicle crashes claim more young lives than any other cause of accidental death.

As parents prepare to send their children and teens back to school this fall, they're urged to set aside 10 minutes to watch a new video (available

at:http://www.nj.gov/oag/hts/downloads/video/Crossing_08062010.wmv) that calls attention to the dangers in and around school zones. "School Zone - Danger Zone," the second in a three-video series dubbed "Street Smart is Street Safe" developed by the Municipal Exchange Liability Joint Insurance Fund (MEL), points out through interviews with school principals, parents, crossing guards, and police officials, how important it is for parents to know and follow their school's student drop off plan, understand and convey to their children the function of school crossing guards, and serve as positive role models by adhering to and reinforcing traffic safety laws. While parents should watch the video with their children, the message is particularly important for parents who often unknowingly create traffic hazards as they drop off or pick up their children from school. Accompanying the video is a downloadable tip sheet that is sure to prompt plenty of discussion around the dinner table.

"We've got to think beyond ourselves when it comes to traffic safety," stressed Pam Fischer, Director of the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety, who appears in the video and is the mother of a school-age child. "As parents, it is incumbent upon us to recognize the dangers associated with our transportation system -- particularly when it comes to the mix of cars and pedestrians on our roadways. All of us must work together as a community to ensure our children's safety in and around school zones."

Young children are particularly vulnerable in traffic because they lack, until about age nine, auditory localization skills - the ability to hear and anticipate oncoming traffic. Additionally, young children are impulsive and have trouble judging traffic and finding an acceptable gap to cross. Between 2007 and 2009, nearly 2,000 New Jersey children between 5 and 15 years of age were injured in pedestrian/motor vehicle-related crashes and 19 were killed. Boys accounted for nearly 64% of those injured and killed, but both boys and girls are vulnerable to pedestrian crashes which typically occur on a week day, during daylight hours and in dry weather conditions.

Teaching children about the importance of always using crosswalks and obeying pedestrian signs, signals and crossing guards is essential. Parents, however, must also brush up their traffic safety skills to ensure that they are not committing infractions, particularly when behind the wheel. It is imperative that parents refrain from double-parking, speeding, talking on cell phones or texting, and rushing off after dropping off their children. Parents should also follow the directions given by crossing guards and others stationed in school zones; failure to do so could not only endanger those who are providing a valuable service to the community, but the children they're helping to protect. Consider this, in the past ten years crashes involving school crossing guards in New Jersey have increased 65%. This is a statistic that should not only alarm parents, but provoke them to make safety their top priority when traveling in school zones.



SAVE THE DATES- 2010 NJPTA Convention



Friday & Saturday,
November 19 & 20

Bally's Atlantic City

Town Hall Meeting with National Representative
Idea Sharing/Networking Luncheon
Friday Night Special Event with Exhibitors
Awards Luncheon
Workshops and Conferences

New Jersey PTA has a new mailing address!

If you wish to contact us by e-mail, fax, phone or letter please contact us at:

NJPTA
P.O. Box 8668
Trenton, NJ 08650
(609) 393-6709
(609) 393-8471 - fax
njptaoffice@njpta.org

Our office is still located at
900 Berkeley Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08618

NOTE:

How do I get my school featured in a future issue of New Jersey PTA E-NJP-T? If you have a great story that you would like us to use, contact us directly at editor@njpta.org or let your County President/Advisor know and we will highlight your PTA in one of our weekly emails!

Please feel free to forward this e-mail by click the button below. Please send additional e-mail addresses of all interested Officers and Members of your Local PTAs.

WE ARE PTA - NOT P.T.A or pta!

