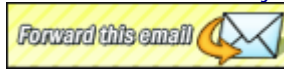


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Click below to forward this e-newsletter to the rest of your PTA's board and members.



# E-NJPT

May 23, 2011 - Volume 1, Issue 8

*The Official E-Publication of the New Jersey PTA*

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## Quick Links

Find New Jersey PTA on Facebook by clicking below!

[Find us on Facebook](#) 

Follow NJPTA on Twitter! Click below!

[Follow us on](#) 



## Reminder!

**REMINDER:**  
**New Jersey PTA has**  
**MOVED!!!**

Our new address  
is  
8 Quakerbridge  
Plaza, Suite F  
Mercerville, NJ  
08619  
(609) 587-0100  
(609) 587-0500  
(fax)

*Please remember this when returning your unused membership cards and sending in your new officers form for 2011 - 2012!*

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

## UPCOMING

### EVENTS:

Sunday, June 5, 2011-  
NJPTA Reflections Awards  
Event

Liberty Science Center,  
Jersey City, NJ

Thursday - Sunday,  
June 9 - 12, 2011-  
National PTA Convention-  
Orlando, FL

Friday - Saturday,  
July 15 - 16, 2011-  
New Jersey PTA Summer  
Leadership Conference  
Somerset Doubletree Hotel

Thursday - Saturday,  
March 23 - 25, 2011-  
New Jersey PTA  
111th Annual Convention,  
Bridgewater Marriott Hotel

## SAVE THE DATES!

**The 2011 NJPTA  
Reflections  
Awards Event will be  
held at LIBERTY  
SCIENCE CENTER on  
Sunday, June 5th! Come  
out to support  
the Reflections Program  
in New Jersey!**

**The 2011 Summer  
Leadership Conference  
will be held at the  
Somerset Doubletree  
Hotel from Friday, July  
15th to Saturday, July  
16th, 2011!**

**BE ON THE LOOKOUT  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION!**

### **NJPTA Local PTA Forms**

**The following forms  
have been  
previously mailed to  
you and your Local  
PTA. Please  
download and  
submit to the NJPTA  
Office at the  
addresses above.**

*If you have any  
questions in regards to  
the forms, please  
contact your County*

*President or Advisor!*

- [2010-2011 Report of the Annual Audit](#)
- [2010-2011 Membership Dues Form](#)
- [2010-2011 Request for More Membership Cards Form](#)
- [2010-2011 Membership Breakdown Report Form](#)
- [2011-2012 Annual Report of PTA Officers](#)

**PTA Legislative Alert**

*Express your disappointment in the elimination of the sole federal funding stream for family engagement in education!!*



On Monday, May 16 2011 the U.S. Department of Education used administrative discretion to eliminate fiscal year 2011 program funding for the Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC) program. This decision runs counter to previous pledges to prioritize the role of parents and families in education reform efforts.

Although PIRCs survived rounds of Congressional spending cuts, the Department defied the will of Congress, schools, parents, and families, by using executive discretion to completely eliminate program funding. PIRC programs and services will cease as of September 30, 2011.

What you can do:

- Communicate your disappointment to the Administration and Congress, demand that they work to fill the void in providing technical assistance to school districts on family engagement in education to increase student achievement in the upcoming school year, and reinstate program funding in fiscal year 2012.

To Send a Message to the President and the Department of Education, visit <http://capwiz.com/npta2/issues/alert/?alertid=46983501&PROCESS=Take+Action>

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### **The Family Engagement in Education Act of 2011 has been Introduced!**

On Tuesday, May 10, the Family Engagement in Education Act of 2011 (H.R. 1821/S. 941) was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Todd Platts (R-PA) and Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) and in the Senate by Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) and Sen. Christopher Coons (D-DE). The Family Engagement in Education Act of 2011 strengthens parent engagement in the Elementary and [Secondary Education Act \(ESEA\)](#), commonly referred to as No Child Left Behind (NCLB), which congressional leaders have stated they want to reauthorize this year.

The bill:

- Provides guidance and incentives to schools, districts, and states on how to use research-based strategies to engage families; and
- Strengthens and safeguards the sole federal parent engagement program, the Parental Information and Resource Centers (PIRCs).

This bill is National PTA's top policy priority, and we are thrilled that after months of work and advocacy, a sound legislative proposal that authorizes no new federal spending is finally introduced in both chambers! Thanks to all the state PTA leaders who have worked with National PTA over the course of this process. While an action alert was sent following the introduction, we still need your help to ensure that this bill makes an impact

with House and Senate committees as they consider ESEA reauthorization. Following the intense funding battle for Fiscal Year 2011 funding, and as Congress looks toward reauthorization of No Child Left Behind, it is important that we show massive grassroots support for family engagement at all levels of reform, including the infrastructure of the PIRC program. We are asking all regional, district, and local units to consider endorsing this legislation by clicking the link below:

**[ENDORSE the Family Engagement in Education Act](#)**

For additional information, please contact Jacque Minow, National PTA's Senior Education Policy Analyst, at [jminow@pta.org](mailto:jminow@pta.org).

**National PTA Official Back to School Kit**



**[The National PTA Official Back to School Kit-Register Today!](#)**

The Official Back to School Kit contains the PTA [Quick-Reference Guides](#), membership posters, male involvement materials, program and advocacy resources, and special offers from national partners-the tools your units need for a successful PTA year.

Make sure your PTAs get these valuable resources. Remind them to [register](#) to receive their free 2011-2012 kit.

All local, council, district, and regional PTAs must register to receive their kit for 2011-2012. The kit registration form is at [pta.org/OfficialKit](http://pta.org/OfficialKit). The incoming 2011-2012 PTA president or other authorized leader will need to specify the unit's preferred shipping address and date.

Help us spread the word to units about the need to register. Include articles in your newsletters (feel free to reprint articles from PTA Partners in Leadership), post the information on the state PTA website, and make announcements at upcoming PTA meetings and events. Read the [Kit FAQs](#) for more information.

Each unit will receive only one free kit, so emphasize that the kit must go to the incoming PTA leadership team. Kits will ship weekly based on unit orders beginning June 17 and running through September 16.

State PTA offices, presidents, presidents-elect, membership chairs, and extension chairs will automatically receive a kit in mid-June and do not

need to register. Please make sure your records are up to date with the National PTA office.

If you have any questions, please e-mail National PTA at [info@pta.org](mailto:info@pta.org).

## Teachers' Insurance Plan of New Jersey

NJPTA members can benefit from good rates and insurance coverage, AND raise funds for their PTA! Call for your free, no-obligation quote for quality auto and homeowner's insurance, and earn \$10 for your PTA - it's that simple!

Tell your fellow members how they too can help raise funds for your local PTA while also checking out Teachers' Insurance's great rates and special benefits tailored to the needs of the New Jersey educational community.

Call today (800) 516-4972 for your quote and visit [www.nj-teachers.com](http://www.nj-teachers.com) to learn more about the benefits of Teachers Insurance.



Just Between Friends and Revenue Share - Still Time to Earn for Spring Semester!

In the beginning of February, Just Between Friends distributed revenue share checks to units that met the revenue share criteria for the Fall semester. Units who met the criteria earned \$122 to \$245 each for the semester.

There's still time to earn revenue for the Spring 2011 semester. To be eligible, your unit must have one parent in at least 20% of the households in your community go through the Just Between Friends household start-up wizard. Then, they'll have a Just Between Friends household account and this gets them into your unit's communications group. Communicate with them at least 10 times during the semester to enjoy revenue share. If you communicate at least 10 times in the semester to 50% of the households in your community, you double your revenue share. The number of dollars depends on how much revenue is derived from companies that advertise on the Just Between Friends system. Eligible units will receive their checks for the Spring 2011 semester in August.

If your unit isn't using Just Between Friends yet, get started by going to [www.JustBetweenFriends.com/PTAquickstart](http://www.JustBetweenFriends.com/PTAquickstart) and entering your unit. It's provided free by National PTA to all PTA units. You can use the system for membership management; communications; volunteer management; and

revenue share/fundraising. If you have any questions, please visit [www.JustBetweenFriends.com](http://www.JustBetweenFriends.com) and click on the "Contact Us" button, or contact Eric Dickerson, your Just Between Friends PTA liaison at [edickerson@mailjbf.com](mailto:edickerson@mailjbf.com). Eric can also be reached at 412-561-0500 x 1010.

## Local Leadership Resources



### **LOCAL LEADERSHIP RESOURCES: STARTING A SPECIAL EDUCATION PTA**

Families with children who have special needs often seek out opportunities to meet other parents in similar circumstances. [Special Education PTAs](#) (SEPTAs) provide this opportunity and often bring together families of students who attend different schools in a district under one PTA umbrella. Becoming a SEPTA provides families with an organizational structure, resources and the opportunity to be a collective voice for their child and for all children. Click [HERE](#) to read article.

### **2011 NATIONAL PTA FEDERAL PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA**

Each year National PTA publishes a public policy agenda that outlines policy priorities and recommendations for Congress. The priorities are selected based on the following criteria: timeliness of issue (is it being considered before Congress and the Administration), opportunities for National PTA to provide leadership and expertise to Congress, alignment to National PTA's mission and resolutions, and ability to achieve a meaningful policy change that will produce positive results for children and their families. The 2011 Public Policy Agenda focuses on two key priorities: Family Engagement in Education and Opportunity and Equity for all Children. Click [HERE](#) to download the 2011 Public Policy Agenda.

### **PARENTS' GUIDE TO STUDENT SUCCESS**

The Parents' Guide to Student Success was developed in response to the Common [Core State Standards](#) in English language arts and mathematics that more than 40 states have adopted. (To find out if your state has adopted the standards, visit [CoreStandards.org/In-The-States](http://CoreStandards.org/In-The-States).) Created by teachers, parents, education experts, and others from across the country, the standards provide clear, consistent expectations for what students should be learning at each grade in order to be prepared for college and

career. Click [HERE](#) to view the Guide.

## Senator Diane Allen Visits Beverly City School PTA



Pictured above are Charlotte Arr, VP for Health & Welfare, Senator Allen, Jack Gwin, Beverly City School PTA President.

**On February 8, 2011, Senator Diane Allen visited a local PTA and discussed Senate Bill 2392, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights that was signed by Governor Christie on January 7, 2011. This bill won't go into effect until next year. The Department of Education will be working on the guidelines for local school districts. Each year 160,000 students stay away from school because of bullying issues. Reports had been coming to her office about cases of harassment and bullying and she needed to take action.**

**Highlights of the bill include:**

- A. Training a staff member to recognize cases of harassment or bullying**
- B. Reporting each case to the school principal within two days**
- C. Reporting back to the parent or guardian**
- D. Appropriate discipline of the offender**
- E. Including all cases in the School Report Card**

**These provisions will allow parents to view schools with increased incidents of bullying and make schools districts more accountable for overseeing this very growing problem.**

## PTA Connect for Respect- An Initiative to Prevent Bullying

### *Tip Sheets Available*

National PTA has launched "[Connect for Respect](#)," an initiative to prevent bullying in schools and communities across the country. PTA leaders and parents play a critical role in ensuring that children grow up in safe environments free from bullying. Tip sheets are available that show how parents can help prevent bullying and how PTAs can host a conversation on bullying in their communities.



Through the Connect for Respect initiative, PTAs are encouraged to do three things:

1. Hold a Connect for Respect event in their communities and share resources with parents about bullying.
2. Encourage parents to talk to their children about bullying and to advocate for policies and practices that create a safe school climate for all children.
3. Provide resources for parents and PTA leaders to get involved.

The goals of the five tip sheets are to increase parents' understanding of bullying, explain how to prevent it, and show how to recognize if their child is the bully. PTA has also created a "how to" tip sheet to help PTAs plan a Connect for Respect event in their communities.

The Connect for Respect initiative has been launched in support of the [White House Conference on Bullying Prevention](#), which was convened by President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, the U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on March 10. The initiative builds on the important work that PTAs across the country have led for a number of years in raising awareness of the problem, developing anti-bullying programs, and advocating for effective policies on bullying prevention.

For more information or to download the tip sheets, visit [PTA.org/bullying](http://PTA.org/bullying).

## Tell Us About Your PTA Experience

We want to hear from you. **We are looking for personal stories** about how PTA has impacted your life. Are you a part of PTA's legacy? Did your PTA training help earn you a new job or award recognition? Did a PTA campaign impact your community? Please share your stories, pictures, experiences. Tell us how PTA made (or is making) a difference in your life, school, or community. Post your stories in the [discussion forum](#) at the PTA

Great Idea Bank or e-mail [info@pta.org](mailto:info@pta.org) (add "PTA Stories" to the subject line).

## It's Time to Brag!

The Local PTAs of New Jersey all do great things. Let everyone who receives the E-Newsletter and NJP-T Magazine know by sending information and photos about your events to me at [editor@njpta.org](mailto:editor@njpta.org).

### 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 [secretary@njpta.org](mailto:secretary@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 clicking 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!



[Forward email](#)



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