



"Making every child's potential a reality"

CONNECTICUT PTA 2019 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

Connecticut PTA will work with the Connecticut General Assembly and administration to advance policy in the following areas to ensure that all children reach their highest potential.

Education Funding

Connecticut PTA supports providing access to a well-rounded curriculum and quality instruction for all students. The current education cost sharing formula in Connecticut fails to provide the resources that would procure that quality education.

Connecticut PTA believes that the State of Connecticut, needs to assume a reasonable share of the cost of education. The state of Connecticut mandates most of the standards governing education. Unfunded mandates place an unreasonable burden on boards of education, town budgets and taxpayers. Additionally, the state also authorizes the creation of alternative or additional education opportunities for students including magnet and charter schools. Funding for one must not be diverted to support another.

Connecticut PTA believes that all children in Connecticut deserve an opportunity for a quality public education regardless of where they live.

Family Engagement in Education

Connecticut PTA supports requirements that higher education institutions include parent and family involvement, as well as community engagement in education certification programs to increase the capacity for culturally competent family engagement practices and student achievement.

Connecticut PTA supports the expansion of family engagement initiatives that begin at birth, both in the home and in other early learning environments, to ensure coordinated family engagement throughout childhood.

High School Reform

Connecticut PTA recognizes that the next generation of careers will require our students to have a substantially different set of talents, skills and academic knowledge. The knowledge, skills and habits that are often only afforded the a few, need to become the standard for all.

Connecticut PTA supports educational initiatives that will allow administrators and educators to make bold educational innovations like mastery-based standards that will empower our next generation to thrive in an ever-changing environment. Sole focus on college readiness does not offer all students the experiences to move forward in career preparedness.

Connecticut PTA supports examining the current high school requirements and offering greater flexibility to local school districts to determine the fulfillment of the needs of the community.

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Connecticut PTA supports protecting the rights of children and youth involved in the justice system.

Connecticut PTA supports family and community-based alternatives to incarceration which are less expensive to taxpayers and more effective than detention, which frequently leads to the interruption of education, children failing to return to school after release and future delinquency.

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Social Emotional Intelligence

Connecticut PTA supports initiatives that promote social/emotional skills and resiliency in children to include a tiered model of evidence based practice that addresses prevention and response.

Special Education

Connecticut PTA advocates to ensure that all students graduate from high school being college and career ready and that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are fully protected.

Connecticut PTA supports requirements that school staff know how to respond to behavior issues with positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS).

Water Safety

Connecticut PTA supports the promotion of education of parents, students, school personnel and communities regarding the risks associated with water and water activities and the benefits of water safety and swimming instruction.

Safe and Supportive Schools

A founding principle of Connecticut PTA is the promotion of the safety and well-being of all children and youth. School safety is one of the greatest shared responsibilities of all parents, educators, administrators, students and community members.

School safety is a multi faceted issue with no “one size fits all” solution. All efforts to address the various aspects of school safety must involve parents, students, families and all other stake holders to protect both the physical and the psychological safety of students.

Additionally, CT PTA believes that all children, no matter their immigration status, have the right to a quality education and such supports as are provided within the school and community environment

Other Initiatives

- Non-Partisan Boards of Education
- Child Health and Nutrition
- Professional Development
- Opioid Abuse

The Connecticut Parent Teacher Association, with nearly 36,000 members, is the state's largest volunteer child advocacy organization. Connecticut PTA believes that every child must be provided with a well-rounded, high-quality public education which will ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential and become productive members of society. Access to a free public education is the most effective method of securing this opportunity and should not be denied to any child.



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