



CONNECTICUT PTA 2015 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.

Family Engagement in Education

CT PTA supports requirements that higher education Institutions include parent involvement/family and community engagement in education certification programs to increase capacity for culturally competent family engagement practices to increase student achievement.

CT 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.

Professional Development

CT PTA supports professional development for all teachers and certified personnel in areas of parent involvement and family and community engagement.

Education Funding

CT PTA supports providing access to a well-rounded curricula and quality instruction for all students.

CT PTA advocates the rejection of any proposal to divert public funding from public schools.

Nonpartisan Boards of Education

Connecticut is one of the few remaining states that does not allow towns the right to determine their own election protocol for Board of Education members - It's time to change this. Connecticut PTA's proposal would change state statute and provide towns with the choice, should they so decide, to conduct a Board of Education election process that is void of party affiliation. This is not a mandate and does not require funding, it merely provides towns the choice to decide for themselves if the election process for Board of Education members should remain partisan-based or be changed to a nonpartisan process.

Connecticut Core Standards

CT PTA supports the continuing development of a stronger and more accountable system of education; schools must place priority on student performance and achievement. Schools must focus on what children know and are able to do and be held accountable for ensuring that all children succeed.

Challenging and precise standards must be implemented which objectively measure achievement in academic areas to enable students to achieve at the highest levels possible.

CONNECTICUT PTA 2015 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Early Childhood Education

CT PTA supports state incentives for high-quality child care and preschool programs that are affordable and accessible, coordinated at all levels, characterized by high standards for teaching, training, health and safety and incorporating strong family engagement components.

CT PTA encourages local school districts to use Title I ESEA-NCLB funding to support high-quality early childhood education programs for eligible children age 0 to 5.

Special Education

CT PTA advocates to ensure that all students graduate from High School college and career ready and that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are fully protected.

CT PTA supports requirements that teachers, both general and special education, know how to respond to behavior problems with positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS).

Child Health and Nutrition

CT PTA supports strengthening Local Wellness Policies, encouraging all schools to meet the Connecticut Healthy Snack Standards and encouraging all schools to allow for appropriate physical activity outside of PE classes.

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

CT PTA supports protecting the rights of children and youth involved in the justice system continues to be an area of importance for CT PTA.

CT 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.

School Safety

School safety is a crucial component of effective learning. PTA believes that the safety of children and faculty in all school settings is a fundamental right.

CT PTA supports legislation which encourages and sets basic standards for a healthy and respectful school climate that allows students to be free from bullying and harassment, and that uses proven approaches of positive and preventive classroom management.

The Connecticut Parent Teacher Association, with over 45,000 members, is the state's largest volunteer child advocacy organization. CT PTA believes that every child must be provided with a well-rounded, high-quality 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.

For additional information, please contact Connecticut PTA at (203) 691-9585 or email us office@ctpta.org.

www.ctpta.org

Connecticut
PTA®
everychild.onevoice.®