



"Making every child's potential a reality"

CONNECTICUT PTA 2017 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 than those of the past. The knowledge, skills and habits that were once the possession of 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.

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

Connecticut PTA supports the development of educational materials that will help students, parents and community members understand the importance of a mastery based education.

School Climate

Connecticut PTA believes school climate is a crucial component of effective learning. The safety of children and faculty in all school settings is a fundamental right.

Connecticut 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.

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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.

Early Childhood Education

Connecticut 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.

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

Special Education

Connecticut 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.

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

Other Initiatives

Non-Partisan Boards of Education

Child Health and Nutrition

Education Assessments

Professional Development

The Connecticut Parent Teacher Association, with nearly 40,000 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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