

California State PTA Core

Values

The California State PTA is a professional, nonprofit volunteer organization committed to the well-being of all children.

We believe every adult has a responsibility to ensure that all children develop to their full potential.

We believe parents are children's first teachers and that parent involvement is essential throughout a child's educational experience.

We believe that family is the basic unit of society responsible for the support and nurturing of all children, and recognize that family may be defined in many ways.

We believe our responsibility includes advocating for the safety and welfare of all children and the opportunity for a quality public education.

What We Stand For

The mission of the California State PTA is to positively impact the lives of all children and families by representing our members and empowering and supporting them with skills in advocacy, leadership, and communications.

Adopted by the Board of Directors, July 2007

Carrying Out the PTA Mission

The work of the California State PTA, a branch of the National PTA, is carried out by a Board of Managers whose membership includes elected and appointed officers, district PTA presidents, commissioners, legislative advocates and consultants, all of whom are volunteers. Their work is accomplished by nine commissions and by standing and special committees. Unit (association), council and PTA district volunteers also work to carry out the mission of the PTA in California.

Leadership

The California State PTA provides ongoing training to prepare PTA leaders to:

- Carry out the Purposes of the organization;
- Become familiar with the principles, guidelines and structure of PTA;
- Develop their leadership management skills;
- Build their ability and self-confidence in working with PTA members, parents, school staff, and the community.

Scholarships and Grants

The California State PTA awards high school senior scholarships, continuing education scholarships for teachers and school nurses, PTA volunteer scholarships, cultural arts, leadership development, parent education and translation grants. Scholarship and grant funds are raised through the Honorary Service Award Program which recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the education and well-being of children. Over the past fifty years, the California State PTA has provided more than \$5 million in scholarships and grants.

Outreach

The California State PTA strives to increase recognition of changing ethnic and cultural diversity in our schools and communities. The *California State PTA Toolkit*, *PEP Guide* and association bylaws and other materials are available in Spanish.

Partnerships with the Business Community

PTA cooperates with the business community in mutually profitable ventures which so not compromise PTA's non-commercial policy. PTA and business work together to improve education for all children.

California State
PTA[®]
everychild.one voice.

Involvement
Makes a
Difference

Join PTA

Call Your School Today!

California's Children
Need Your Involvement

California State PTA

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Who We Are...

PTA is the largest volunteer organization of parents, educators, students, health and welfare professionals and community members working exclusively to improve the education and well-being of all children and youth at home, school and in the community.

PTA Has...

Worked to secure child labor laws and promoted juvenile justice programs;

Supported adequately financed compulsory public education including kindergarten, reduced class size, and integrated arts curriculum and resources;

Worked to create the national public health service and to develop health and nutrition programs including school breakfast and lunch programs; and

Promoted National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement and the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Purposes of the PTA

To promote the welfare of children and youth in the home, school, community, and place of worship.

To raise the standards of home life.

To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.

To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.

To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.



Our Priorities...

Education

PTA addresses education issues from early childhood through higher education and is committed to:

- Help PTAs strengthen parent and community involvement in schools and in education decision-making;
- Ensure that public funds are used for public education; and
- Ensure that at the state, school district and local levels, PTAs actively participate in efforts to give every student the same opportunity for an excellent education.

Health

PTA addresses major health issues such as childhood obesity; drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse awareness and prevention; antibiotic resistance awareness; school health plans; and environmental issues including pesticide use. PTA collaboration with allied agencies and advisors provides:

- Information on health education programs and health issues affecting children, youth and their families.
- Resources for PTAs to educate parents, teachers and students on health related topics through web links, publications, classroom educational programs, convention exhibits, conferences and presentations.

Legislation

A team of volunteer advocates spearheads the California State PTA's efforts "to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth."

- The California State PTA coordinates advocacy and education efforts to make PTA views known to state and federal elected officials, government agencies, and to all Californians.
- PTA Legislative Alerts and PTA positions on proposed legislation and initiatives are posted on the California State PTA website www.capta.org and are available by electronic subscription.

Parent Involvement

PTA provides information and training to help parents strengthen their parenting skills and encourage their involvement in schools. Resources for PTAs include:

- The *Parents Empowering Parents Guide*, available in English and Spanish, for use by PTA leaders to assist parents in helping their children succeed in school;
- *PTA Parent Talk* brochure to improve communication and promote positive relationship between parents and children.
- *Involvement Makes a Difference*, *PTA Membership Benefits You*, and *Put Yourself in the PTA Picture*, brochures provide suggestions for increasing involvement within the home, school and community by parents and adults.

Community Concerns

PTA promotes programs and projects that affect the safety and well-being of children and their families including:

- Disaster preparedness, child safety and safety education;
- Preservation of families and prevention of child abuse;
- Prevention of youth violence and vandalism, gang involvement, handgun violence; and
- Citizenship.

Communication

PTA provides the following communication tools:

- *PTA in California*, the official newsletter of the California State PTA, which offers organizational information and summaries of information and studies on issues of concern to PTA members. Available as a subscription, this tool is a free service to PTA presidents.
- *The Communicator*, which contains camera ready information on timely subjects and issues, is available through subscription.
- The California State PTA website www.capta.org offers information, resources, links to other sites, and posts *PTA in California* and *The Communicator*.
- Educational information on the impact of media. PTA believes that home and school can work together to help children understand the message of media content.