

**California State**  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
*everychild.one voice.*

2009  
Summer Service Mailing  
***Legislation***

...Updated Legislation  
Policies

...Join National PTA's  
"Take Action"

...Join California State  
PTA's "Legislative Email  
Alert List"

...Legislation More  
Important Than Ever



# Legislation More Important Than Ever

As your unit, council or district PTA develops its nomination slate for the upcoming year, we urge you to create a position for a Legislation Chairperson, if you do not already have one on your Executive Board. PTA is a child advocacy organization whose legislative mission is to speak on behalf of all children and youth. PTA Legislation Chairs are responsible for demonstrating leadership on children's issues at the local level by educating PTA members, community members, and elected officials about PTA's issues of concern and legislative priorities and goals.



Particularly during difficult economic times, decisions made by legislators in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. directly impact the education and well-being of children and youth in your community. The current budget crisis facing the state and nation has placed the quality of education and children's services in severe jeopardy. Now, more than ever, PTA members must speak out to let our legislators know that children's issues must be at the forefront of the legislative agenda if California hopes to have a sustainable economy in the future.

The role of the legislation chair at the unit, council or district level is to:

- Become informed of PTA legislative priorities and current issues, through subscription to online Legislative Alerts and the Sacramento Update; attending the annual CAPTA Legislation Conference; and/or attending legislation workshops at the annual CAPTA convention.
- Review the CAPTA legislative policies and platform (see Section 4 of your Toolkit).
- Develop an email list of others in the community interested in legislative issues, so that you can share information and solicit action as required.
- Identify your local state and federal legislators, communicate with them on a regular basis and arrange to have PTA representatives visit them at least once a year.
- Sponsor candidate forums for school board and/or other legislative positions in your community during election cycles – you may wish to partner with other organizations, such as the League of Women Voters (see Section 4.3.2 of your Toolkit for more information).
- Provide a report on current legislative issues at your regular unit, council and/or district meetings and solicit feedback from your members on key issues.
- Coordinate local advocacy efforts when requested to do so by your members and/or California State PTA.

For more information on the importance of PTA advocacy, see Section 4 of the Toolkit. For a full job description for a Legislation Chair, see Section 10 of the Toolkit. You may also wish to go to the CAPTA website and click on Advocacy for more information.

***Get involved now so that PTA continues to speak for every child with one voice!***



## **Join California State PTA's Legislative Email Alert List Today!!**

Advocacy is the active support of a cause, idea or policy. Children need advocates to speak on their behalf.

Joining the California State PTA Legislative Alert List will mean you are among the first to know about important legislative issues and developments.

Please go to our website at [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org), click on Legislative Alerts on the upper right corner of the home page. There you can sign up to receive Legislative Alerts.



## ***PTA Takes Action: Federal Policy Update***

### **National PTA's official Legislative newsletter and Legislative Alerts!**

PTA's success as an advocacy organization depends upon the active involvement of its members. National PTA's new monthly publication will inform members on what's happening in Washington DC.

Read the latest on education and child related legislation, press events, congressional and White House meetings, as well as informative statistics and reports of concern to PTA members.

The newsletter is provided via e-mail to participants of National PTA's Member-to-Member network.

To join the network today visit

**[www.pta.org/take\\_action.asp](http://www.pta.org/take_action.asp)**

You can also call.....

### **National PTA's Legislative HOTLINE**

To receive legislative updates on issues affecting children call National PTA's Hotline toll-free at

**1-888-4-ALL-KDS or (1-888-425-5537)**

#### **4.2.5 -California State PTA Legislation Policies and Procedures**

Adopted May 2009

Presented to convention delegates for adoption in odd-numbered years.  
Policies are italicized; procedures are not italicized.

Procedures adopted by California State PTA Board of Managers.

##### **4.2.5a -POLICY 1**

*The State Board of Managers of the California State PTA is responsible for taking action on state legislation, and proposed or qualified statewide ballot measures.*

##### **4.2.5b -POLICY 2**

*Legislative measures selected for action by the State Board of Managers must be of statewide significance, and must fit within the Purposes of the PTA and within the framework of the Legislation Platform adopted by the convention delegates.*

##### **4.2.5c -POLICY 3**

*Any position on legislation adopted by the California State PTA Board of Managers remains in effect until the subject has been reviewed and new action taken according to adopted procedures.*

##### **4.2.5d -POLICY 4**

*All positions on legislation taken by the California State PTA Board of Managers shall be posted on the organization's website in a timely manner.*

##### **4.2.5e -POLICY 5**

*A unit, council, or district PTA with an interest in a proposed or qualified statewide ballot measure, which pertains to the welfare of children and youth, must determine whether the California State PTA Board of Managers is studying or has taken action, before taking any action locally. If the California State PTA Board of Managers has studied the measure and has made a formal decision not to take action, or has chosen not to consider the measure, then action may be taken locally if the appropriate steps are followed.*

##### **4.2.5f -POLICY 6**

*Any California State PTA action on legislation represents the official position of the organization and shall not be interpreted as representing the personal opinion or conviction of every individual PTA member.*

##### **4.2.5g -POLICY 7**

*Unit, council and district PTAs are encouraged to promote the adopted California State PTA position and may be requested to actively support positions taken by California State PTA. While unit, council and district PTAs are not required to work actively for any position, they may not officially oppose a stand taken by the State Board of Managers. Unit, council, and district PTAs need not vote to affirm a California State PTA position in order to take action. Expressed membership disapproval of a position on legislation should be communicated to the California State PTA Board of Managers through regular channels, with a report of the extent of and reasons for the disapproval.*

##### **4.2.5h -POLICY 8**

*-Any unit, council or district PTA may request that the California State PTA Board of Managers consider taking action on state legislation or proposed or qualified statewide ballot measures.*

##### **4.2.5i -POLICY 9**

*The California State PTA may authorize a district PTA to take action on a state legislative measure that affects only their local or regional area. The district PTA affected must consult the California State Board of Managers before taking action.*

##### **4.2.5j -POLICY 10**

*Unit, council and district PTAs are responsible for taking action on local issues originating in school districts, cities, regions, or counties, if such action fits within the framework of the Purposes of PTA and Legislation Platform, adheres to PTA policies, and affects the well-being of children and youth.*

##### **4.2.5k -POLICY 11**

*-Informational material on PTA positions related to legislative issues may be sent home with students, in compliance with local school district policies and procedures.\**