

## PTA: A century of commitment to children

For more than a century, PTA has reminded our nation of its obligations to children and provided resources and important information to parents and teachers. Whenever young people’s education, health, safety, or well-being have been threatened, PTA members have been on the forefront, working to resolve those challenges. PTA has been instrumental in the passage of important laws and guidelines that we sometimes take for granted today, such as:

- Creating a separate criminal justice system for juvenile offenders.
- Enforcing child labor laws.
- Building kindergarten into the public school system.
- Supplying federally funded hot lunches – that now feed more than 26 million children a day.
- Supporting school bus safety regulations.
- Creating the content-rating system for television programs – yes, PTA supported the creation of that ratings indicator you now see in the upper-left corner of your TV screen.

Many of these concerns may not have been addressed if PTA members did not take up the cause!

PTA has never been shy to tackle tough issues – from talking about sex education as early as 1916 to supporting HIV/AIDS education programs in the 1980s, PTA has been there to help parents and teachers be partners in children’s education.

### Our Legacy of Caring Continues

PTA prides itself on being a powerful voice for children’s education and health issues, a relevant resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education efforts such as:

- Developing resources for parents and teachers to promote diversity and encourage inclusiveness in our schools.
- Offering practical information and tools for parents and teachers on a broad range of topics, ranging from child nutrition and wellness to school/family communication to TV and media violence and bullying.
- Supporting and speaking on behalf of children and youth before governmental bodies and other organizations to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.

Times and issues may have changed, but advocating for children still requires steadfast parent involvement. That’s why parent involvement remains at the core of all of PTA’s efforts. Today, more than 5.5 million PTA members nationally and nearly 1 million members in California, actively work in schools and communities to make every child’s potential a reality.

### A century of caring

*Throughout its history, PTA members have championed social, health, safety, and education issues affecting children and youth.*

- 1900s** Juvenile Justice and Child Labor Laws
- 1910s** Establishment of Kindergarten
- 1920s** Nationwide Children’s Health Project
- 1930s** Nutrition & Emergency Services
- 1940s** National School Lunch Act
- 1950s** Salk Polio Vaccine Trials
- 1960s** Child Protection & Toy Safety Legislation
- 1970s** Television & Media Violence
- 1980s** HIV/AIDS Education Program
- 1990s** TV Ratings/National Education Goals
- 2000s** Parent Involvement Standards defined in Federal Law

