

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, October 2009

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 10 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.

PTA is a membership organization, and it is our members who give us the voice with which we advocate for issues that affect children.

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 Awards Program, which recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the education and well-being of children. Over the past 50 years, the California State PTA has provided more than \$5 million in scholarships and grants.

Outreach

The California State PTA recognizes that effective outreach includes efforts to enlist the participation of everyone to improve student success. 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 do not compromise PTA's noncommercial 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, and the e-newsletter Sacramento Update, are posted on the California State PTA website www.capta.org and are available electronically via subscription at no cost.

Parent Involvement

PTA provides information and training to help parents strengthen their awareness, understanding and skills in how they can help their children learn, develop and reach their full potential. Resources for PTAs include:

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

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 publishes print and electronic communications:

- *PTA in California*, the official newsletter of the California State PTA, offers organizational information and summaries of information and studies on topics of concern to PTA members and is available via paid subscription.* This tool is a free service to PTA presidents as is PTA Connects, an electronic newsletter.
- *The Communicator* contains camera ready information on timely subjects and issues. It is available via paid subscription* in print or electronically.
- The California State PTA website, www.capta.org, offers extensive information, resources and links to other sites and features PTA's print* and electronic publications at no cost. PTA also has a Facebook page.
- PTA is concerned about the impact of the media. PTA believes the home and school can collaborate to help children understand the message of media content.