

NATIONAL PTA[®] 2014 PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the 113th Congress, PTA will work with the U.S. Congress and Administration to advance policy in the following areas to ensure that all children reach their highest potential.

General Education

Reauthorization of ESEA-NCLB remains a top priority for National PTA. In addition, PTA is fighting for improvements to ESEA-NCLB, including access to well-rounded curricula, equity protections for disadvantaged populations and accountability to parents and the community.

Special Education

Through the reauthorization of ESEA-NCLB and implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), National PTA will continue to advocate to ensure that all students graduate from high school college and career-ready, will see that family engagement remains a fundamental principle of IDEA and will work to ensure that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are fully protected.

Family Engagement in Education

National PTA endorses the Family Engagement in Education Act of 2013 (H.R.2662/S.1291). The Act would support effective family engagement strategies where it is needed most while encouraging state and local district flexibility in identifying programming that works best. In addition to full passage of the bill, PTA will push for provisions to be included in the reauthorization of ESEA-NCLB.

Early Childhood Education

National PTA supports federal and 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 incorporate strong family engagement components.

Education Funding

Federal investment in quality education is critical to our nation's long-term success. PTA supports replacing the sequester cuts with a balanced and fair approach, protecting vital education investments in all federal deficit reduction efforts, securing dedicated funding for family engagement in education, increasing funding for IDEA and maintaining or increasing investments in quality early learning programs.

School Safety

School safety is a crucial component of effective learning. National PTA believes that the safety of children and faculty in all school settings is a fundamental right and has made it the utmost priority for our programmatic and advocacy work. In 2014, National PTA will work to support federal programming and policies related to safe routes to school, bullying prevention and the protection of children from gun violence.

Child Health and Nutrition

In 2014, PTA strongly supports continued implementation of the Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, including healthy guidelines for all foods sold in schools, strengthening Local Wellness Policies and improving nutrition standards for meals served as part of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs.

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Protecting the rights of children and youth involved in the justice system continues to be an area of focus for National PTA. PTA supports a reauthorization of the JJDP Act that includes improved provisions that keep youth who commit non-criminal offenses out of secure juvenile corrections facilities, and that ensures the Jail Removal and Sight and Sound Separation core protections are extended to all children under 18 years of age.

This document is a brief summary of the National PTA's 2014 Public Policy Agenda. To review all of National PTA's federal policy recommendations, please view National PTA's full 113th Congress 2014 Public Policy Agenda, available at PTA.org.

For additional information, please contact the National PTA Office of Government Affairs at (703) 518-1200.

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