

115TH CONGRESS



NATIONAL PTA
LEGISLATIVE
CHECKLIST



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National PTA is the oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy association in the United States. Founded in 1897, PTA's legacy of influencing federal policy to promote the education, health and well-being of every child spans 120 years. Over the last century, PTA members have been instrumental in improving the lives of millions of children by advocating for the creation of universal kindergarten classes, child labor laws, a juvenile justice system and healthy school meals. Though National PTA advocates for a variety of issues, family engagement in education remains at the core of our advocacy efforts. National PTA and its constituent associations look forward to working with the 115th Congress to advance policies that ensure all children reach their highest potential. **We urge Congress to complete the following:**



ADEQUATELY FUND EDUCATION PROGRAMS THROUGH A REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Congress must replace sequestration with a balanced approach to deficit reduction that does not further cut education funding and invests in key programs. **The Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill must:**

- Fund Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFECS)
- Appropriately fund Title I, Part A including an increase to the family engagement set-aside in Title I, Sec. 1116 of ESSA from 1% to 2%
- Fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) state grants to ensure any student with special needs receives the support and resources they need to succeed in school
- Sufficiently fund Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs)
- Adequately invest in Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (Title IV-A)



REAUTHORIZE THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT (JJDP)

National PTA urges Congress to enact a reauthorized juvenile justice law to reduce the number of youth unnecessarily involved in the justice system. **Any reauthorization of the JJDP by Congress must:**

- Incentivize family and community-based alternatives to the incarceration of youth
- Eliminate the Valid Court Order exception to the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders core requirement
- Extend the Jail Removal and Sight and Sound Separation core requirements to all children under the age of 18 during all forms of detainment within the justice system
- Require states to establish solutions to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system



REAUTHORIZE THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

National PTA supports a reauthorization of IDEA that further protects and improves the lives of more than 6.5 million eligible infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities. **In the reauthorization of IDEA, Congress must:**

- Include a statutory definition of family engagement in education based on National PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships within Section 602 of IDEA
- Provide greater protections for the rights of children with special needs and their parents to ensure access to resources and supports for a high-quality education
- Require transition planning services for students with disabilities to begin no later than the age of 14 and incentivize school districts to employ specialized staff to provide these services
- Support the inclusion of behavioral intervention plans in a student's IEP and 504b plan





REAUTHORIZE THE CHILD NUTRITION ACT

National PTA supported the enactment of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA) in 2010 as it improved nutrition standards and access to nutritious meals for students. **The next iteration of the Child Nutrition Act must:**

- Improve and enhance opportunities for parents to participate in the development of local school wellness policies
- Maintain, at a minimum, the current school nutrition standards and Smart Snack guidelines and deliver technical assistance and resources to schools that are not meeting the nutrition standards
- Provide federal grants and loan assistance for schools to improve kitchen infrastructure and equipment
- Oppose any attempt to block grant the school nutrition program or reduce the number of students eligible to participate in the free and reduced-price school meals program



REAUTHORIZE AND MODERNIZE THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS & PRIVACY ACT (FERPA) AND CHILDREN'S ONLINE PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT (COPPA)

Federal laws must better protect student data and improve learning opportunities for students.

Any reauthorization of FERPA or COPPA must:

- Require states, school districts and schools to be transparent and engaged with families on the development, implementation and notification of student data privacy policies and procedures
- Provide federal restrictions around the collection, use, storage, security and destruction of student data and educational records



IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT OF CHILDREN

Federal laws should promote and enhance the emotional, mental and physical well-being of students both in and out of school. **Congress must:**

- Improve access and funding for qualified, school-based health and wellness practitioners
- Require schools to enact policies that address the prevention, intervention and elimination of all types of bullying behaviors both inside and outside of school
- Support the use of positive behavioral interventions and support (PBIS) models in schools instead of exclusionary discipline policies
- Enhance opportunities for personalized learning through access to digital devices and broadband internet



EXPAND AND ENHANCE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

National PTA supports federal legislation that improves the development of our nation's earliest learners.

Congress must:

- Require family engagement policies in the development, implementation and evaluation of all early childhood programs, including home visiting programs
- Increase access to high-quality early childhood care and education opportunities for infants and toddlers through the Early Head Start and Head Start programs
- Expand opportunities for evidence-based home-visiting services for parents of infants and toddlers



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PROTECT YOUTH, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES FROM GUN AND OTHER VIOLENCE

An estimated 46 million American children will be affected by violence, crime, abuse or psychological trauma every year.

Congress must:

- Promote education initiatives that raise public awareness of firearm safety and gun violence prevention strategies, including safe gun storage programs
- Require a waiting period and comprehensive background check prior to buying a firearm from both licensed and unlicensed dealers
- Ban the sale, transfer, manufacturing and importation of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines

For additional information on National PTA's Public Policy Agenda, contact the National PTA Office of Government Affairs.

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About National PTA

National PTA® comprises millions of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of family engagement in schools. PTA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit association that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health, and welfare of children and youth.



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