



89TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

TEXAS PTA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Texas PTA is proud to continue building upon our long-standing legacy of advocating to make every child's potential a reality within the following pillars: Supporting Student Success, Health and Safety, Meaningful Assessment and Accountability, and Strengthening Public Schools.

#EveryMemberCounts

Advocacy is a numbers game. More members equal more influence! Purchase PTA memberships for your entire family. Encourage friends, neighbors, school district employees, community leaders, and business owners to join. Back the future of your community and Texas: Join now at joinpta.org because when it comes to advocacy, every member counts!

How We Got Here

Bound by resolutions and positions and guided by feedback from multiple stakeholder listening sessions and the member advocacy survey, the Texas PTA Advocacy Committee proposed legislative priorities to the Texas PTA Board of Directors for review, revision, and approval.

What is Ahead?

Once again education will be one of the hottest topics of the Texas legislative session. Because school funding, teacher and staff shortages, school safety, and accountability were not addressed last time, these conversations will be even more critical in the 89th session. Join us! Become a member and add your voice to our work!

Our Thunderous Voice



Some of the efforts we are most proud of are the result of being half a million members strong and selectively partnering to accomplish our vision.



- Improving digital connectivity for all students,
- Strengthening bullying laws and reporting requirements,
- Providing fully funded full-day pre-k for children traditionally at risk,

- Raising the age to purchase tobacco to 21,
- Reducing required End of Course exams from 15 to 5,
- Adding school supplies to the annual sales tax holiday,
- Requiring parental engagement by way of site-based decision-making committees on every campus,
- Restricting children from riding in the back of pick-ups,
- Implementation of statewide safety standards for playgrounds,
- Graduated driver's license for teenagers, and
- Funding of school-based health clinics while making sure that school safety remains a priority.

Texas PTA's Advocacy Roots Run Deep!



As far back as 1909, founder Ella Carruthers Porter was advocating for free textbooks, teacher retirement funds, improved school facilities, sanitary drinking cups, and kindergarten. Her influence was said to have been "felt from the schoolhouse to the state house." Texas PTA is proud to carry on that legacy! Won't you join us?



LEAD PRIORITIES

Improve Public School Funding

Advocate to increase the basic allotment, fully fund public schools, automatically adjust for cost of living changes, and base funding on enrollment versus attendance.

Resolve Teacher & Staff Shortages

Advocate to address teacher and staff shortages and improve retention.

Increase School Safety

Advocate to increase funding for school safety and allow local control to determine what additional safety measures are needed in each school district.

Transform School Accountability

Advocate to provide a meaningful state-wide school accountability system that more broadly reviews school and district performance, includes a family engagement component, accurately reflects a student's readiness for future success, and opposes outcomes-based funding.

Keep Public Dollars in Public Schools

Advocate against diverting public dollars from public schools. All recipients of public dollars should be subject to the same state assessments, accountability, and parental rights.

SUPPORT PRIORITIES

Reform Student Assessment

Support a simplified and improved student performance system with testing alternatives for qualifying students and oppose high-stakes, single-day testing.

Manage Phones at School

Support limiting cell phone use during instructional time while allowing local control over the development of additional policies.

Expand Mental Health Support

Support the expansion of school mental health programs, improved data collection and accessibility, strengthened telehealth services, and increased mental health awareness.

Address Overdose on Campus

Support legislation that addresses drug overdoses on campuses.

Regulate Vaping

Support flavor bans, regulations on sales, and a tax on e-cigarette products.

Increase Special Education Resources

Support increased special education funding and resources for families.

MONITOR PRIORITIES

Prevent Child & Youth Trafficking

Track legislation that promotes awareness, educates children and families on trafficking risks and signs, and expands prevention programs.

Reduce Distracted Driving

Track stricter distracted driving legislation to reduce the number of motor vehicle crashes affecting children.

Move Tax-Free Weekend

Track opportunities to move the Texas tax-free weekend earlier to better align with the majority of school start dates.

Provide Medically Accurate Sex Education with Parental Opt-Out

Track the inclusion of medically accurate information about sex education in 8th grade and higher, and the option for parents to opt-out if they prefer their student not receive that education.

For more information about the legislative priorities, please visit www.txpta.org/legislative-priorities.