

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Texas PTA needs you! Your voice is key to our efforts to pass laws that protect and enhance the lives of the children of Texas, offering educational opportunity to all. There are many ways that you can be involved:

Sign up for Legislative Briefings and for Action Alerts. These updates will keep you apprised of activity in the legislature on our legislative priorities.

Schedule a meeting with your legislators in your home district. Legislators are more likely to consider your opinions as a constituent than almost any other. You don't need to have a polished speech or printed business cards. **You just need a passion for issues that impact the children of Texas.**

Make calls to your legislators to communicate Texas PTA's position on critical issues before the legislature. Use the Texas PTA website, www.txpta.org, to locate your state senator's or state representative's contact information.

TX PTA utilizes Action Alerts to notify you when your voice is needed. The alerts are sent electronically and will contain a brief summary or bit of background on the issue and then will ask you to take action, either by calling or emailing your legislator. A sample statement will be included.

Come to Austin to visit your legislators and other legislators in leadership positions that affect Texas PTA's legislative priorities. The next TX PTA Day at the Capitol will be February 3, 2011. Please mark your calendars and plan to come to Austin. Make your voice heard!! Consider organizing a Council trip to Austin. Texas PTA is available to assist you in planning a trip to the capitol.

Come to Austin to testify before a committee on Texas PTA's legislative priorities. Testimony is typically limited to 3-5 minutes. We are available to assist you in preparing your remarks.

Follow the progress of our legislation. You can track the progress of legislation of interest to Texas PTA on your own. To do so log on to the Texas Legislature website: www.capitol.state.tx.us

At the Home Page, in the middle column under the heading "Search Legislation", you may conduct a search of any bill by entering the bill number or a word or phrase that would be contained in the bill. **Note: you will receive a list of the bills we are tracking if you sign up for Legislative Updates and Action Alerts.**

The most important thing to remember is that your voice is important.

You CAN and you DO make a difference when you decide to use your voice.