



# 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.

## LEAD PRIORITIES

### Public School Funding System

Pursue legislation that raises the basic allotment and automatically adjusts it with the cost of living, funds public education based on enrollment versus attendance, increases funding for full-day kindergarten, and improves ballot language for school district propositions.

### Vouchers

Oppose legislation that authorizes state funds to be used to pay for private school tuition and related costs.

### Teacher and Staff Shortage and Retention

Pursue legislation that addresses teacher and staff shortages and improves retention.

### Student Mental Health

Pursue mental health legislation, including systems to identify students in need of intervention, and programs and services designed to help keep students mentally strong and prepared to cope with personal challenges.

### A-F Accountability System

Pursue legislation impacting the state's A-F system. Advocate for an accountability system that more broadly reviews school performance and includes a family engagement component.

In addition to our lead initiatives, Texas PTA will support legislation around the following issues. Each of these priorities is critically important to children in Texas.

- Providing State Funding for Alternative Disciplinary Placement Plans
- Addressing Charter School Accountability
- Addressing COVID-19 Learning Loss
- Eliminating Cyberbullying
- Supporting Digital Connectivity for All
- Reducing Distracted Driving
- Addressing Drug Overdose on Campus
- Decriminalizing Victims of Human Trafficking
- Providing Local Control and Parental Opt-Out for Library Books
- Fully Funding the School Meal Program
- Increasing School Safety
- Reducing the School-to-Prison Pipeline
- Providing Medically Accurate Sex Education with Parental Opt-Out
- Providing Adequate Special Education Services
- Reducing Emphasis on and Number of State Assessments
- Banning Flavored and Regulating Vaping Devices

For more information about the legislative priorities, please visit [www.txpta.org/legislative-priorities](http://www.txpta.org/legislative-priorities).

## 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.

## 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?

## #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 [jointpta.org](http://jointpta.org) because when it comes to advocacy, every member counts!

## What is Ahead?

Education will be one of the hottest topics of the 88th legislative session. Hundreds of public education bills have already been filed. School funding, vouchers, student mental health, teacher quality and retention, school safety, parental involvement, and recovering losses from the pandemic will all be debated.

## 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.