

Wisconsin PTA Legislative Priorities 2006-2007

The Legislative Priorities of Wisconsin PTA are determined at the annual Wisconsin PTA Convention based on the resolutions brought forward and passed by our delegates. These resolutions then determine the main focus of our legislative activity for the year. Wisconsin PTA will also remain alert and responsive to other issues that may arise and are covered by other resolutions or positions of Wisconsin and National PTA. PTA is a nonprofit organization. It takes positions on legislative issues, but is nonpartisan and endorses no candidates for public office.

Parent Involvement

- Advocate for inclusion and promotion of the Parent Involvement Standards in Federal legislation that affects schools, children and families.
- Advocate at the state and local level for the development, implementation and regular evaluation of a parent involvement program in each school that involves parents at all grade levels and in a variety of roles.
- Advocate for adoption of policies within DPI and state legislation that will foster the creation of these programs and will include
 - Meaningful, regular communication between home and school
 - Promotion of responsible parenting
 - Affirmation of the integral role parents play in student learning
 - Parents are welcomed and supported at the school
 - Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families
 - Community resources are made available to strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning

Education

➤ Funding for Schools and School Programs

- Advocate for comprehensive school funding reform at the state level and the establishment and implementation of a school funding system that is base on the needs of all students.
- Advocate for a funding system that will allow every school to provide the resources needed for all students to learn.
- Advocate with state and federal lawmakers to support efforts to assure that all mandated educational programs are fully funded and oppose any action that will reduce funding for mandated programs or establish programs that are unfunded or under funded.
- Advocate for State Legislators to vote against constitutional amendments that would further limit educational funding and lead to a decline in educational quality.

➤ Safe & Nurturing Environment

- Advocate for safe and nurturing environments in all public schools, where children feel they can learn and be successful.

➤ English Language Learners

- Advocate for additional categorical funding that would accommodate the unique need of all English Language Learner students.

➤ IDEA Reauthorization

- Continue to advocate for full funding of special education in the schools.
- Advocate for increased parent involvement in all aspects of special education policy.

➤ **School Trust Lands and Funds**

- Provide information to parents, educators, policymakers and the public about school and institutional trust lands and permanent school funds, including the compensation or grant entitlements that states have been denied since their entrance into statehood; advocate to sound financial management of the school trusts to provide the maximum benefit to the children in public education who are the beneficiaries of those trust, and shall work to ensure that these funds do not supplant existing education funding; urge state and federal lawmakers to support public schools by ensuring that the historical trusts are allowed to fulfill the purpose for which they were originally created.

Health and Welfare

➤ **Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Education**

- Support curriculum to include CPR and AED training and certification.
- Encourage all school district staff be certified in CPR and AED.
- Encourage community partnerships to develop resources for the purchase of equipment and teaching CPR and AED in schools.
- Promote public awareness about CPR and AED.

➤ **Electronic Devices in Moving Vehicles**

- Support legislation opposing non-emergency use of electronic devices in moving vehicles.
- Support legislation requiring producers and providers of electronic services and devices to provide educational campaigns that would inform the public of the safe operation of electronic devices.

➤ **Inhalant Abuse**

- Increase public awareness of Inhalant Abuse.
- Support new and ongoing programs promoting the awareness and dangers of inhalant Abuse.
- Encourage partnerships with other organizations to increase awareness of Inhalant Abuse.

➤ **Concealed Weapons**

- Increase public awareness about the dangers of concealed weapons.
- Oppose legislation that would undermine the concealed weapons laws in effect since 1874.

➤ **Childhood Obesity**

- Support programs that promote healthful behaviors.
- Encourage education about obesity prevention, nutrition and the importance of healthy eating.

➤ **Nursing Services**

- Encourage local units to disseminate information to their school communities and municipalities regarding nursing services in each school district and the implications for the lack of those services.

➤ **Care of School-Age Children with Diabetes**

- Advocate with PTA and its constituent organizations urging that all school personnel receive general training on diabetes and that at least two staff members per school obtain specific training on diabetes care, diabetic emergency procedures, and identification and treatment of symptoms of hyperglycemia and hypoglycemia as allowed by individual state licensure.

➤ **School Health Councils**

- Advocate with PTA and its constituent organizations to develop school health councils, support health education efforts throughout the entire school, including in cafeteria offerings and physical education programs, and collaborate with health-related organizations to assist in the development and activities of school health councils.

➤ **Child Nutrition and Wellness**

- Advocate and work with constituent organizations to encourage good nutrition and wellness for all children.