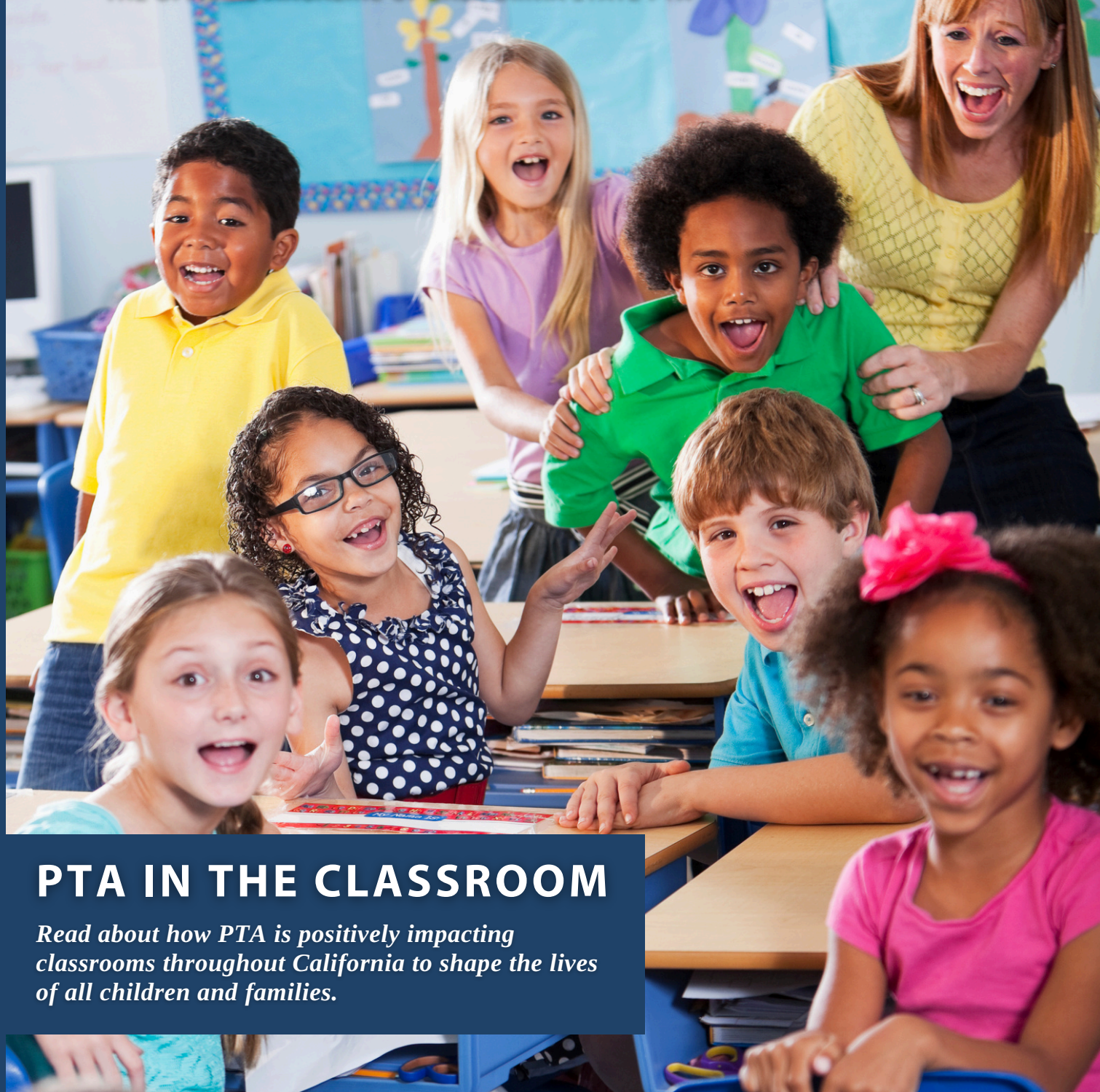


Fall 2025

PTA[®] IN CALIFORNIA

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF CALIFORNIA STATE PTA



PTA IN THE CLASSROOM

Read about how PTA is positively impacting classrooms throughout California to shape the lives of all children and families.

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Welcome to our themed edition of PTA in California:

"We're in the Classroom!"

Across California, PTA is more than an organization—it's a daily presence and a partner in every classroom. By focusing each edition on a new theme, we hope to shine a light on the real ways PTA makes a difference for students, teachers, and families every single day. We're here to connect, inspire, and celebrate the powerful impact our volunteers have—right where learning happens. Let's explore the heart of PTA together!

PTA IN CALIFORNIA: FALL 2025

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Today, Tomorrow, *Together*

I am an educator. I began my teaching career as a substitute teacher and then got my own 5th grade classroom a short year after I began subbing. My mother and grandmother were both educators, and I grew up hearing stories about all of their students—their successes and their challenges. My husband is currently teaching at a junior high school in our community and over his twenty year career we've been lucky enough to watch his former students discover their passion in their career, graduate from college, get married, and have children of their own (some of whom my husband also teaches).

At my core, I am a teacher and I know that educators across our state are working tirelessly in and out of the classroom to help every student succeed. Many educators put in more than just what families and students see because of their love and passion for their job and their students. Their work is directly linked to what we do here at PTA. We walk alongside our educators and administrators as we all strive to positively impact the lives of all children and families.

My first experiences in PTA were as a classroom teacher. A PTA membership envelope was placed in every teacher's mailbox and it was my assumption that we were supposed to join and attend their association meetings. I remember being so thankful to our PTA during those first years of teaching. They were the reason my class could go on field trips because tight budget times didn't allow the district to provide us buses, but our PTA fundraised for that. We had family nights where I got to meet and interact with my students' families in a social setting; it helped me to get to know them better and see the dynamics of the students in my class.

When I was struggling to keep my head above water, a PTA volunteer offered to help make my copies or help with an art project—these were bright spots in an overwhelmed new teacher's day! Never doubt the impact small acts of kindness and volunteering can do for our teachers each day, week, and school year.

Our local PTAs do so much to not only support our educators, but they help families understand what is happening at the school. Their programming often helps to bridge the gap between our families and our schools, allowing families to come see all the amazing things our educators and administrators are doing every single day! If families only come to campus for Back to School Night or Open House, they miss so much of the real work that is done to ensure student success.

Every time someone volunteers—whether it's organizing an event, lending a hand in the classroom, or simply showing up with a smile—they help create a community where every child can thrive. So if you've ever wondered if you can make a difference, the answer is yes. Raise your hand, share your talents, and join us! Together we can bring more joy, understanding, and opportunity to every student in California. Let's make our schools—and our kids' futures—the very best they can be today, tomorrow, together.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Heather Ippolito".

Heather Ippolito

California State PTA President



PTA Shaping Lives in the Classroom

California State PTA has a longstanding dedication to support every child and family in their journey through the education system. We support every child in having the opportunity to excel at school, whether it is our support of California's Transitional Kindergarten (TK) classes or the science of teen brain development that was used to support later high school start times across the state. Our over 3,000 units at local schools directly impact lives in those communities by promoting safe schools for all children. We promote the positive impact that celebrating our diverse backgrounds brings to our communities, and we support efforts to ensure we have safe and up-to-date facilities and well-trained staff at every school.

California State PTA is a membership organization with over 500,000 members and growing. We are also part of the National PTA. Each level of PTA broadens our awareness of PTA's impact locally, statewide, and nationally. Our members bring issues and concerns to help us create resolutions and position statements that we use in our advocacy efforts to positively impact the lives of all children and families. Local units actively work within their communities to provide the necessary education and training opportunities for parents, and they support the development of positive family relationships and engagement with schools.

The impact of COVID-19, while we had remote learning to support academic progress, significantly impacted our community's ability to build social connections. It is essential to ensure that our students are equipped to have positive social experiences, both in person and on-line. We support our children, teachers, and families in developing the skills to sift through the information explosion that we all face and to be able to thoughtfully and respectfully discuss, debate and learn from each other.

Finally, we actively promote the engagement of all parents and caregivers in support of their child's education. We know that having an adult demonstrate the importance of education to children will have a positive influence on their future learning outcomes. We encourage every parent and caregiver to spend time supporting their child's learning and engaging with the school community. We encourage all school staff to provide positive role models, show respect, engage in respectful dialogue, and support all children in their school community. Together we can make a difference in the lives of all children and families.

Will Sanford

California State PTA President-Elect



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From Advocacy to *Impact*: How PTA Work Reaches Every Classroom

By the California State PTA Legislation Team

Right now, children in California classrooms face challenges that require advocacy at every level. Federal funding cuts loom over already-stretched budgets. Schools struggle to address extreme heat days and wildfire smoke with inadequate infrastructure. Health care access grows more uncertain for vulnerable families. Protections that ensure every child receives the support they need are being rolled back. Additionally, increased immigration enforcement activity on and near school campuses has created fear in communities, threatening the fundamental principle that schools should be safe places for ALL children to learn and thrive.

But here's what every PTA member needs to know: You have the power to address these challenges at every level where decisions get made.

PTA connects families to each other and to their schools, providing information, support, and a community of advocates working together for children's success. Fundraising, local programs, and volunteer hours matter, but PTA's greatest strength has always been advocacy—speaking up for policies that protect and support every child's ability to learn, grow, and thrive. When families are informed, engaged, and united, they become powerful advocates for change.

Serving the Whole Child: PTA's Comprehensive Focus

California State PTA's advocacy centers on the whole child and on families through four interconnected focus areas. This approach recognizes that children cannot learn effectively if

they're hungry, unsafe, or dealing with health issues—and that academic achievement requires engaged families and supportive communities.



Education addresses early childhood through college preparation, advocating for adequate funding, reduced class sizes, quality curriculum, and extra support for English learners and students with special needs.



Health and Safety tackles physical and mental wellness, nutrition, and safe school environments. PTA emphasizes that schools should be safe places for ALL children to learn and thrive through social-emotional learning, trauma-sensitive practices, and bullying prevention. This school year, California State PTA is also emphasizing support for students and families when immigration enforcement happens on or near school campuses.



Family Engagement recognizes involved caregivers as children's first teachers. PTA advocates for policies that welcome families into schools, facilitate meaningful two-way communication, and empower families to support learning at home—increasingly important under California's Local Control Funding Formula, which requires school districts to meaningfully engage families in decision-making.



Community Concerns addresses issues affecting children's well-being beyond school—from safe routes to school to environmental health to civic engagement—acknowledging that children's success depends on healthy, supportive communities.

Rising to Current Challenges: 2025 Federal Policy Changes

The 2025 federal policy landscape presents unprecedented challenges for California's children, families, and schools. Understanding these issues—and how PTA advocacy addresses them—is critical for every member who wants to make a difference.

Education Funding in Jeopardy: The Trump Administration has proposed a 15% cut to Department of Education funding while attempting to facilitate the department's closure. Uncertainty continues around federal funding that was previously assured—dollars that support teachers, academic programs, AP classes, and English learner services. Proposed cuts would eliminate 18 grant programs, including Title I support for low-income schools, meaning larger class sizes, fewer resources, and reduced support for the students who need it most.

Health Access Under Attack: Proposals to add work requirements and benefit caps to Medicaid threaten health coverage for millions of low-income families, including children. When children lack access to preventive care, vision screenings, and mental health services, their ability to succeed in school diminishes.

Climate and Environmental Impact: Federal policies have rolled back clean energy investments and climate protections, including tax credits under the Inflation Reduction Act that many schools used for solar panels, improved HVAC systems, and energy-efficient buildings. California schools face increasing challenges from heat, wildfire smoke, and other climate impacts, disproportionately affecting low-income communities and communities of color where schools are less likely to have adequate cooling and ventilation.

Special Education and Civil Rights: Proposed changes to special education law, gutted civil rights enforcement, and Department of Education layoffs threaten protections for students with disabilities and vulnerable populations. Additionally, increased immigration enforcement activity on and near school campuses has created fear in many communities. California State PTA has

responded with comprehensive guidance for local PTAs, emphasizing that schools should be safe places for ALL children. The organization also co-sponsored legislation to strengthen protections for students regardless of immigration status and is actively advocating for federal legislation, such as the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act, to ensure schools remain safe spaces for every child.

How PTA's Multilevel Structure Creates Change

Understanding how PTA advocacy works helps you see where your voice can make the biggest impact. PTA operates at five interconnected levels, each addressing challenges at the appropriate scale:

- **Unit PTAs** at individual schools advocate directly with principals and teachers on immediate concerns—from playground safety to classroom resources to mental health support.
- **Council PTAs** coordinate multiple schools within a PTA district, advocating on school district-wide policies like curriculum decisions and resource allocation, ensuring school boards hear unified family voices.
- **District PTAs** bridge local and state advocacy across county-level areas, monitoring county education offices and coordinating responses to regional challenges.
- **California State PTA** works with state legislators and officials, taking positions on legislation and providing expertise on how state decisions impact children and families. Current advocacy goals focus on safeguarding children's health and well-being, promoting family engagement, and expanding civic participation.
- **National PTA** represents families before Congress and federal agencies. When federal policies threaten education funding or children's health protections, National PTA mobilizes millions of members nationwide.

This structure ensures that insights from classrooms and communities flow upward while expertise and resources flow downward—and that, whether a decision happens at a school board meeting or in Washington, D.C., families have a voice at the table.

Continued on Page 8 ►





Together: Our Students Excel When They Are *Present*

By the California State PTA Education Commission

When students attend school consistently, their educational outcomes are better. Unfortunately, some students are absent 10% or more of the year, making them chronically absent. According to the California Department of Education, [research shows](#) that students who are chronically absent are less likely to read proficiently by third grade, perform well in middle school, and graduate from high school ([Balfanz and Byrnes 2012](#); [Chang and Romero 2008](#)). Chronic absence disproportionately impacts specific student populations, including students with disabilities, foster and homeless youth, socioeconomically disadvantaged students, English learners, and certain racial and ethnic groups ([Chavez and Hough 2025](#)).

California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond recently announced the release of the [California Attendance Guide](#), an online resource that provides proven, actionable strategies for every school, district, and county office of education across the state. He stated, “Due to historic investments in student supports and family engagement, California has cut TK–12 chronic absenteeism levels by one-third, from 30% in 2022 to 20% in 2024. We are on track and committed to reduce chronic absence by 50 percent over five years. Our Community Schools approach is working: When we address the needs of the whole family, our students are able to show up to school.”

The California Attendance Guide recognizes that in order to continue to reduce chronic absenteeism, these three things need to improve:

- **Health, well-being, and safety** – Students attend school when they are physically and emotionally healthy as well as when they feel safe and supported.
- **Family engagement** – Students attend school when they and their families are actively engaged as partners in advancing learning and overcoming barriers to getting to school.
- **Student connectedness** – Students attend school when they are connected to a caring adult and peers, engaged in prosocial activities, and feel a sense of belonging ([Attendance Works 2019, 2025](#)).

PTA plays a vital role in supporting student attendance by actively addressing these core factors.

California State PTA advocates for policies that ensure that all children and youth feel safe, supported, and included on our school campuses as well as policies that support their mental and physical health. California State PTA believes that every child in every classroom deserves to attend school without fear. Education is a constitutional right, and schools are sacred spaces for learning and growth for all students. California State PTA also supported the Safe and Supportive Schools Act in 2023. This bill supports our students by providing high quality, professional development opportunities to educators in order to help foster inclusive classroom environments and appropriately addressing the unique challenges that LGBTQ+ and all students face. The California State PTA will continue to advocate for policies that prioritize the educational welfare of every child, foster family engagement, and ensure that all students can reach their full potential in safe, supportive learning environments.

By encouraging meaningful family engagement, PTA builds strong connections between families and schools. PTA empowers parents and caregivers to become active participants and partners in their children's education. When parents and caregivers volunteer at school, attend PTA, School Board, School Site Council, or English Learner Advisory Council meetings, they create personal connections with educators and administrators developing a trusting relationship between parents and the school personnel.

PTA-sponsored programs such as Reflections, field trips, family nights, and assemblies foster a sense of belonging and community in our schools. For example, some PTAs sponsor literacy nights. These events can include book exchanges where

families bring books to trade with other families. They may include volunteers reading books aloud, doing crafts, and encouraging participants to dress up as a character from their favorite book. Another fun event to host is an active family night. Families can rotate through stations that might include dancing, games, hula hooping, etc. These programs and experiences help students feel valued, supported, and connected to caring adults and peers. Students feel like they are part of something bigger than themselves, motivating them to show up and participate.

Together, through ongoing collaboration with educators and administrators and a shared commitment to student well-being, we can ensure that every student not only attends school, but feels seen, supported, and ready to excel.

► Continued from Page 6

What Local PTA Members Can Do Right Now

PTA members have concrete tools to make a difference. Your advocacy, at any level, matters.

- ✓ **Stay Informed:** Sign up for California State PTA's Action Alerts, the quarterly PTA Advocate newsletter, and monthly advocacy calls (March-June). Follow and share California State PTA's social media. Visit capta.org/advocacy anytime for PTA authorities, legislative updates, and advocacy resources. Knowledge is power, and informed members become effective advocates.
- ✓ **Use Your Voice:** When Action Alerts arrive, contact your representatives. These coordinated campaigns work because legislators pay attention when they hear from constituents, especially parents and educators. Five minutes can influence critical votes. Your personal story is your most powerful advocacy tool. Share specific examples of how policies affect your child, school, or community to help decision-makers understand the human impact of their decisions.
- ✓ **Connect Locally:** Attend school board meetings, county education office sessions, and school district budget meetings. Speak during public comment and develop ongoing connections with your local, state, and federal representatives. Invite them to visit your school. If federal funding cuts affect your school district, work with your unit and council PTAs to advocate for alternative funding sources.
- ✓ **Educate and Mobilize:** Share information with other parents and community members. Encourage families to join PTA and become active advocates. Deepen your advocacy skills by attending the California State PTA Legislation Conference (February 2-3, 2026, in Sacramento), the California State PTA Convention in Fresno (May 1-3, 2026), or the National PTA Legislation Conference in Alexandria, VA (March 2-4, 2026).

✓ **Support Safe Schools:** California State PTA has provided advice and comprehensive resources to help ensure schools remain safe places for ALL children to learn and thrive. Participate in your school's safety planning and advocate for policies that protect all students regardless of background. Support California State PTA's position that every child in every classroom deserves to attend school without fear. Education is a constitutional right, and schools are sacred spaces for learning and growth for all students. Share resources from the California Attorney General and Department of Education about student rights and family protections. Encourage your PTA to issue statements supporting all students' right to education and advocate for protective state and federal legislation.

✓ **Think Whole Child:** When advocating on any issue, connect it to children's comprehensive needs. Funding cuts aren't just about money; they affect whether children can learn effectively, access mental health support, eat nutritious meals, and attend safe schools.

Looking Forward

The challenges facing California's students and families are real and urgent, but when we work together through collective action, we can create positive change. PTA exists to ensure that policies at every level—from your child's school to the federal government—serve children's and families' best interests. For over 125 years, PTA has been the voice for every child and family. That advocacy continues today through every member who takes action.

Your voice matters. Your advocacy makes a difference. And together, we ensure that PTA advocacy reaches every child and every family in every classroom and community.



PTA in the Classroom: Learn Better *Digital Wellness* and Citizenship Habits Through PTA Connected

By the California State PTA Communications Commission

Today's classrooms are buzzing with energy, ideas, and technology—places where students, families, and educators connect both in person and online. California State PTA is committed to making sure every student, family, and educator can navigate this digital landscape safely and confidently. That's where PTA Connected, a National PTA initiative, comes in.

Why Digital Wellness and Citizenship Matter

Digital wellness isn't just about screen time—it's about helping students develop healthy relationships with technology, understand the impact of their digital footprint, and become responsible digital citizens. As technology becomes more central to learning, it's critical that families and schools work together to build positive digital habits and keep kids safe online.

How PTA Connected Supports Classrooms

PTA Connected offers a suite of resources and programs designed to empower families, students, and educators to thrive in our digital world. Through workshops, family nights, and easy-to-use guides, PTA leaders are bringing digital wellness conversations into the classroom. Topics include online safety, privacy, and cyberbullying prevention—helping everyone stay informed and prepared.

- **Be Internet Awesome:** In partnership with Google, this program teaches students and families about digital citizenship and online safety. Interactive activities and engaging resources make learning fun and practical. [Learn more.](#)

- **Ready, Tech, Go!:** This program helps parents and caregivers navigate the digital age with confidence, offering tips and conversation starters to foster open dialogue at home about responsible device use for all members of the family. [Explore resources.](#)
- **Build Up and Belong:** Focused on belonging and positive relationships in digital spaces, this initiative supports high school students in building healthy online communities. [See how to get involved.](#)

Real Impact in California Classrooms

PTA leaders across California are using PTA Connected resources to spark important conversations, equip families with knowledge, and create safer, more inclusive school environments. Whether it's hosting a digital wellness night or sharing tips in a classroom newsletter, PTA is making a difference where it counts—right alongside students and educators.

Get Connected—And Empowered!

Want to bring PTA Connected to your school? Visit the [National PTA Connected page](#) for toolkits, event ideas, and more. Together, we can help every student become a confident, responsible digital citizen.



The Transformative Power of Family Engagement in K-12 Schools

Family engagement is one of the most powerful drivers of student success. For decades, research has shown that when families are actively involved in their children's education, students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. The COVID-19 pandemic further revealed the depth of families' contributions, prompting educators to rethink how they engage with caregivers. Check out our Action Plan for Equitable Family-School-Community Partnerships to learn how to strengthen family engagement on your campus.

Action Plan for Equitable Family-School-Community Partnerships

1 Start With the Why: Share the Evidence

ACTION FOR ADMINISTRATORS:

- Present a brief overview to your leadership team and staff on why family engagement matters, using research from Dr. Karen Mapp and colleagues (*Everyone Wins! The Evidence for Family-School Partnerships & Implications for Practice*).
- Highlight that effective family-school-community partnerships lead to:
 - **For students:** Higher grades, better attendance, stronger self-esteem, and increased graduation and college enrollment
 - **For educators:** Greater job satisfaction, stronger relationships with diverse students, and increased support from families
 - **For families:** Deeper relationships with children, better communication with educators, and more confidence navigating school systems
 - **For schools & communities:** Improved morale, stronger community connection, and more inclusive decision-making

Optional talking point: Family engagement has been central to PTA's mission since 1897 and is embedded in federal policy (e.g., Statewide Family Engagement Centers in ESSA).

2 Use the 4 "I's" to Guide Your Family Engagement Strategy

ACTION FOR ADMINISTRATORS:

With your leadership team, review your current family engagement efforts and ask:

- **Inclusive:** Who is not at the table? How are we welcoming and including all families, especially those historically marginalized?
- **Individualized:** How do we adapt to the unique needs of each family and child?
- **Integrated:** Are family engagement efforts aligned with our school goals, instructional practices, and improvement plans—or are they “add-ons”?
- **Impactful:** How do we know if our engagement efforts are improving student outcomes and family-school relationships?

Next step: Choose 1–2 specific changes you will make this year under each “I.”

3 Invest in Professional Learning for Cultural Responsiveness

ACTION FOR ADMINISTRATORS:

Plan and provide ongoing professional learning that helps staff:

- Reflect on their own cultural identities and biases
- Model and advocate for valuing diversity
- Use culturally competent teaching and engagement practices
- Strengthen communication and conflict resolution skills
- Apply inclusive family engagement strategies in classrooms, offices, and school events

Next step: Identify one professional learning series or partner (such as PTA, district office, or community organizations) to support this work.

4 Ensure Accessible, Respectful Communication for All Families

ACTION FOR ADMINISTRATORS:

Audit your current communication practices and ensure that:

- Interpreters and translated materials are provided for key meetings, events, and document
- Students are not used as translators for sensitive or complex information
- Communication is direct, respectful, and culturally appropriate
- Multiple formats are used (email, text, phone, in-person, social media) to reach families

Next step: Set clear expectations and supports for staff to communicate equitably with all families.

5 Make Instruction and Engagement Culturally Responsive

ACTION FOR ADMINISTRATORS:

Work with educators to:

- Incorporate students' and families' cultures, languages, and experiences into curriculum and classroom activities
- Adapt instructional and engagement practices to reflect families' cultural patterns and values
- Use these practices to build trust, improve communication, and increase the effectiveness of interventions

Next step: Ask each grade level or department to identify at least one way they will make instruction and family engagement more culturally responsive this year.

Action Plan for Equitable Family-School-Community Partnerships

6 Build Strong, Trusting Relationships With Families

ACTION FOR ADMINISTRATORS:

Create school-wide structures that

- Welcome families in culturally competent ways (front office, signage, events)
- Provide staff training in parent engagement and diversity
- Ensure staff are visible, accessible, and welcoming to families
- Establish clear, respectable processes for family interaction, feedback, and problem-solving

Next step: Launch or strengthen a family advisory group, site council, or PTA partnership focused on relationship-building.

7 Empower Families With Knowledge of School Systems

ACTION FOR DISTRICT AND SCHOOL LEADERS:

- Host beginning-of-year informational events that explain how the school and district work
- Offer “Parent Universities,” workshops, or information sessions on topics families request
- Provide all materials and events with translation and interpretation as needed

Next step: Co-design these sessions with families and PTA leaders to ensure they are relevant and accessible.

8 Communicate in Ways That Reflect Cultural Norms and Priorities

ACTION FOR ADMINISTRATORS:

- Ask families how they prefer to receive information and be contacted
- Extend outreach to include extended family members and caregivers
- Use diverse formats such as texting, informal conversations, community meetings, and home visits where appropriate

Next step: Adjust your communication plan based on what families say they need and prefer.

9 Engage Trusted Community Advocates and Partners

ACTION FOR ADMINISTRATORS:

Plan and provide ongoing professional learning that helps staff:

- Identify trusted community members, cultural brokers, and organizations who can help bridge gaps between school and families
- Involve families and community members in ongoing efforts to build trust and shared understanding
- Invite them to:
 - Share key messages in culturally relevant ways
 - Serve as interpreters or facilitators
 - Participate in family-led advisory committees

Next step: Formalize at least one ongoing partnership that supports family engagement.

10 Support Immigrant-Origin Students Through Inclusive School Climates

ACTION FOR ADMINISTRATORS:

Recognize that children from immigrant homes make up more than a quarter of the U.S. child population and may face unique challenges.

- Be sensitive to trauma, family separation, and acculturative stress
- Prioritize school quality and care as protective factors
- Focus on school climate to foster learning and belonging

TIPS TO IMPROVE SCHOOL CLIMATE:

- Use surveys and listening sessions to understand student and family experiences
- Address bullying proactively with restorative practices
- Build strong relationships that recognize the socio-emotional needs of immigrant families
- Communicate in culturally relevant ways and multiple languages
- Diversify curriculum with global perspectives and student-led projects
- Invest in professional learning on culturally sustaining practices

11 Plan for Continuous Improvement and Sustainability

ACTION FOR DISTRICT AND SCHOOL LEADERS:

To sustain equitable family engagement:

- Conduct regular needs assessments with families, staff, and students
- Collaborate with neighboring schools and districts to share ideas, resources, and personnel
- Use data and feedback to refine strategies over time

Next step: Set 2–3 measurable goals for family engagement and review progress at least twice a year with your leadership team and family partners.

Family engagement isn't a one-time event—it's a sustained partnership. When families, educators, and communities unite around a shared mission of student success, the possibilities are limitless. As Karen Mapp reminds us, “This is love-work.” Schools must “love fully the families and the children and communities [they] serve.”



Building Stronger Schools, Families, and Futures Together

with California State PTA's School Smarts Program

.....
California State PTA's award-winning School Smarts Parent Engagement Academy is available to school communities interested in promoting family engagement in their communities. School Smarts is offered in multiple languages including English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Arabic, and Tagalog.



Learn more at: capta.org/school-smarts



Resolutions That Shape *Change*

By the California State PTA Resolutions Committee

When California State PTA delegates meet at convention each spring, they do more than debate language or vote on proposals—they set the course for our statewide advocacy. Each resolution brought forward by members represents a shared concern, a community insight, or a call for action. Once adopted, these resolutions become the guiding force for our state and local advocacy efforts, giving authority to PTA members at every level to speak up for all children and youth.

But what happens after the gavel falls and the delegates go home? The impact of these resolutions continues long after convention weekend—shaping legislation, informing public awareness campaigns, and empowering local PTAs to take meaningful action.

The Ripple Effect of Member Voices

Every resolution begins with an idea—often one that starts in a single PTA unit, inspired by a member who sees a need and believes something should change. Through the resolutions process, those individual concerns can grow into statewide and even national action. Whether the topic is literacy, inclusion, health, or safety, PTA members continue to demonstrate that advocacy works when we work together.

Behind each resolution is a story: a group of parents who saw a gap in services, educators and administrators who recognized an unmet need; community leaders who refused to accept the status quo. Their voices, amplified through PTA, lead to real policy change and real improvement for children.

Turning Resolutions into Support for Legislation

Many of our recent resolutions have provided authority for

California State PTA to support legislation that directly benefits students and families.

For example, the **Inclusive Education for Students with Cognitive Disabilities (2023)** resolution has strengthened our advocacy for inclusive practices in special education. This resolution has been used to support key legislative proposals that protect the rights of students with intellectual disabilities.

For example, Assembly Bill 447 (Arambula 2023), opened up UC and CSU campuses to programs for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Another powerful example is **Equitable Literacy for All Students (2023)**, which helped California PTA champion legislation focused on reading instruction. The resolution called for the universal reading difficulty screenings that are now happening in K-Second grade throughout California public schools. That advocacy contributed to the passage of Assembly Bill 1454 (Rivas 2025), a landmark law that requires school districts to update instructional materials for grades 1–8, train teachers in evidence-based reading methods, and revise professional standards for administrators and reading specialists. Thanks to advocacy voices, California is moving toward ensuring every child learns to read using the science of reading.

Resolutions don't only allow us to support legislation but often also inspire our community education. For example, the Equitable Literacy resolution inspired Thirty Third District to focus on literacy at their Legislation Summit in 2024, inviting guest speakers such as Leslie Zoroyo from LACOE and Marshall Tuck from EdVoice to speak on literacy instruction in our schools. Also at our 2025 Convention, California State PTA invited Zoroyo and

Rachel Hurd from Decoding Dyslexia to explain the science of reading behind these recent changes in literacy instruction.

Advocating for Safety and Justice

PTA members have also taken on urgent issues that affect student safety and community well-being. The resolution on **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Children, and Two-Spirit Individuals (2024)** called for greater awareness of the disproportionate rates of disappearance and violence experienced by Indigenous communities. That resolution empowered California State PTA to support Assembly Bill 2348 (Ramons 2024), the Feather Alert Act. The bill provided a critical reform of a system designed to coordinate law enforcement response across urban and rural areas when Indigenous individuals go missing. It's a powerful example of how member-led advocacy can help save lives.



Health, Nutrition, and Local Advocacy

Not every resolution leads to state legislation—some drive meaningful change at the local level. Resolutions such as **Synthetic and Tobacco-Free Nicotine Products (2023)**, **Plant-Based Food Options in School Meals (2022)**, and **Missing Non-Abducted Children with Cognitive Disabilities (2025)** have all authorized local PTAs and councils to take direct action in their own communities.

These resolutions allow members to advocate for healthier school environments, more inclusive meal programs, and improved safety protocols for children with disabilities who may wander or go missing. Local action—whether it's urging a district or city to adopt a new policy or educating families at a health fair—can make an immediate difference in students' lives.



When the Work Reaches National Levels

Some resolutions have implications that extend beyond California's borders. The **Returning to the Classroom Following Student Concussions (California State PTA 2024, National PTA 2025)** resolution is one such example. It highlights a gap in both state and national policy: while student athletes often have clear "return to play" guidelines, few states—including California—have established "return to learn" procedures for students recovering from concussions.

This resolution calls on PTAs to educate their communities about the cognitive and emotional effects of concussion and encourages state and federal policymakers to create recovery protocols that include Return to Learn (RTL) plans. By bringing the issue forward at both the state and national level, California's PTA members are helping to spark a broader conversation about student health, academic recovery, and the need for consistent policy nationwide.

As we look to the future, California State PTA's resolutions will continue to be our compass—guiding advocacy, empowering families, and strengthening partnerships across schools and communities. Through the collective voice of our members, PTA ensures that issues affecting children are not only discussed but addressed—one resolution at a time.

Interested in learning more about California State PTA Resolutions?

Visit our website at capta.org/resolutions to learn more about PTA resolutions.



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