

YOU CAN MAKE THIS YOUR **BEST YEAR EVER**

STELLAR SCHOOL START

IN THIS **EDITION**
YOUR SUMMER CHECKLIST

BACK-TO-SCHOOL KIT

ONLINE SAFETY

BUILDING YOUR WEBSITE

**TRUMP BUDGET & WHAT IT
MEANS FOR OUR KIDS**

CONTACT

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PTA
MISSOURI PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

July 2017 Missouri Parent Teacher Association
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Issue 7 Columbia, MO 65202
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*Click on these featured items
to jump right to their section.*

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Contribute to CONTACT

August 2017 Edition - Invite, Involve & Invest - Content due Thursday, July 20

September 2017 Edition - Where We Live - Content due Sunday, August 20

Share with Missouri PTA and earn your "Featured Article in Contact" **Advanced Leaders Project requirement** by submitting original content - articles, pictures, quotes, ideas, **ANYTHING** - we'd love to hear it!

Include any pictures or hyperlinks too and send it to contact@mopta.org in Word with the author's name, email, title and headshot photo.

I work full time at a university and we spend summer planning for the next academic year. It's seriously my favorite. I love planning. I love meetings. I love getting people involved. And I'm really good at it.

Most people think of everything they have to accomplish and start to get overwhelmed. It's easy to do and I've seen it time and time again. Sure, it's a great idea to make a list of everything you need to do (I also love lists), but if you look at everything, it will seem like too much.

Make your list so you can get it out of your mind, then look at the small things that you can accomplish now. Can you make a few calls to volunteers? Can you set up a planning

meeting? Can you write emails to send to prospective parents? Can you gather supplies for your back-to-school event? Yes, you can.

Even a small success will keep you motivated to keep going as you build your plan for this important year.

If you need help sorting your lists, try my new favorite list organizing app/website: [Wunderlist](#). It's revolutionized and simplified organizing my work tasks, my family home projects, our date night ideas, and my life (seriously, it's amazing and incredibly simple).

And if you need advice, email me - I also love sharing my opinion. And I'd love to help.



Stellar School Start

Sweet Success Tip:
Break your task list down into small pieces to accomplish more and not feel overwhelmed this summer. Make a list of 10 easy things you can do this week and start!

PTA Vision: Making Each Child's Potential A Reality

PTA Mission: PTA is a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for all families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

The Purpose of PTA is to promote the welfare of the children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship; to raise the standards of home life; to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth; to bring into close relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth; to develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

Online Safety for Kids

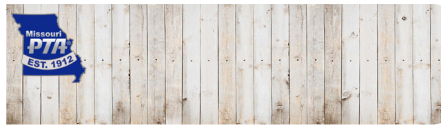
The Internet is a great way for children to have fun, learn new things, and stay in touch with their friends, but it also exposes them to online dangers. As summer vacation kicks off - and your kids start to spend more time on their devices - make sure your kids know the importance of these five online safety tips:

- 1. Don't share too much information.** Create a list of things your kids should never post online - like their birthday and year, full name, address, or phone number - and make sure they understand why it is important to keep this information private.
- 2. Be careful about what you post.** The Internet isn't private. Once your kids share a post, picture, or video, they can't control how others will use it, and it can never be permanently deleted. Teach them to be thoughtful and cautious in what they post and share online.
- 3. Connect only with people you know.** "Don't talk to strangers" is a good rule for the real world and the cyber world. Predators and stalkers can easily
- 4. Keep your location private.** Many apps, networks, and devices have geo-tagging features that broadcast your location. This information could lead a stalker directly to your kids, so check that these features are completely off.
- 5. Protect your password.** Show your kids how to create strong passwords, and make sure they know to never share them with anyone (except their parents or a trusted adult). For guidance on how to make a strong password, see the ["Best Practices for Creating a Password"](#) tip card.

If you'd like to learn more about protecting your children online, check out the [Parent and Educator Resources](#) from the Stop.Think.Connect. Campaign.

From the Missouri PTA President

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There is often a delicate balancing act performed between current and past presidents. Most often the relationship is solid, beneficial and respectful. Then there are those cases of past presidents, or really any past officer, behaving badly.

After my terms ended as unit president and council president I made sure to communicate with the incoming presidents that I was only a phone call away and I did not intend to be at board meetings even though I was still active in the units. Why? I didn't want to be a distraction.

I'd seen previous awkward situations when the new president is challenged by either the past president or officers and/or chairs referring to how 'so and so' did things. The PTA needed to move on with their new leadership. It was never a matter of whether the way I led the PTA was more correct than the president prior to myself or the president that came after me. Leadership styles vary and the PTA should always be fluid and easily adaptable so any parent can take the reins.

But past presidents shouldn't be put out to pasture. I was reading an article from Associations Now entitled "How to Keep Ex-Board Members Close (But Not Too Close)" which got me thinking about that delicate balancing act. I agreed with the article that ex-board members need to be encouraged to move on. PTA is only sustainable if new blood continually takes over leadership roles. Recycling officers and committee chairs leads to stagnation. However, those past leaders are treasure chests of valuable information. They possess networking avenues that simply come with time spent in the position. And the article agrees - this can be achieved by positioning those past leaders in committee or mentoring roles.

As tempting as it might seem to recycle that past officer onto your existing board I encourage you to pass on the idea. Instead use them as your personal secret informational weapon and mentor. Ask them questions and seek guidance. Let them become your biggest cheerleader as they root for the PTA from the stands.



Kids call it like they see it

ONE OF THE
GREATEST GIFTS
YOU CAN GIVE IS
YOUR TIME
#VOLUNTEER

I was running with my hubby a few weeks ago and we passed a young boy walking with his grandmother. We ran by and the boy exclaimed "look they're runners". As we rounded the corner my husband said to me, with a small chuckle, "he said you were a runner". To which I replied, "he's young and would have called anyone out for a run a runner". My husband's response "the innocence of youth just calls it like they see it".

The whether or not I'm a 'runner' is actually an inside joke in my family because for years I never considered my running to be that of a 'runner'. Then after my first marathon my son came up to me and asked "So do you still think you're not a runner?". I've run several marathons since and even completed the Disney Goofy Challenge. So, I do now admit I am a 'runner'. However, that little boy my husband and I passed in the park, had no knowledge of my running prowess. He didn't know if we were out for our first run ever struggling to complete a mile, just out for a quick jaunt,

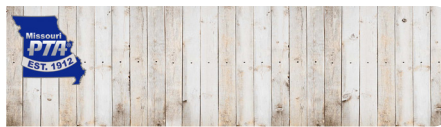
or gearing up for a marathon. He simply called it as he saw it. We were running so we were runners.

Now think about PTA volunteers. Typically, the students have no idea if that volunteer is a PTA officer or committee chair. Whether it's the only time they will volunteer during that school year or they spend hours every week volunteering. They just see a PTA member taking the time to make those students and that school a priority. Which is why every volunteer is important to PTA. Our children need to know that we are there for them - we've got their back.

As you venture into volunteer recruitment for this upcoming school year be sure to remind parents that no amount of volunteering is too little. Even one shift at carnival or an hour sorting spirit wear does have a positive impact. Empower them to be the volunteers we know they can be.

From the team: Missouri PTA Communications

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New Resource! State Guide to Building Online School Report Cards

National PTA, with the Council for Chief State School Officers, Collaborative Communications Group, Data Quality Campaign, ExcelsEd and Learning Heroes, co-created a [State Guide to Building Online School Report Cards](#)—a 12-month, step-by-step timeline and guide outlining a process for states to develop a next-generation report card under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

[This new guide](#) helps states break down the process for creating report cards that are easy for parents and the public to access and understand.

What to Know About Immigrant Students and Families at School

How can your PTA support immigrant students and families at school? PTA leaders have an important role in connecting immigrant families to community and school resources to help these families feel more engaged and welcome in their schools. Read our [new bilingual FAQ](#), and watch the recording of our webinar on [The Role of PTA in Supporting Immigrant Families](#) to learn more.

Awards Update

You might have noticed a change to the deadline for some awards. Several awards were given a new deadline of September 1st because the awards cover events, meetings and programs that happened throughout the entire year.

Applications for the following awards should cover the time period of this membership year that just closed, July 1 – June 30th. The applications for these awards can be found under the login section of MOPTA.org. If you have lost or forgotten your login simply email website@mopta.org

The awards listed here are due via email or postmarked no later than September 1st 2017

- Outstanding Council Newsletter Award
- Outstanding Unit Newsletter Award
- Gold Seal Award Application
- Blue Seal Award Application
- Council Achievement Award Application
- Outstanding Unit Website Award
- Outstanding Council Website Awards



Build A Website And They Will Click!

Stephanie Wade | Missouri PTA IT Chair

Communication is key to parent involvement. Everyone has a computer in their pocket these days, and when they have a question, the web is usually the first place they will look. Having a website is a great first source of communication with your membership!

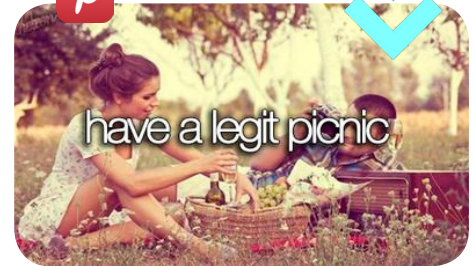
Summer is a great opportunity to work on creating or improving your PTA website! Wordpress is a great tool for website building. There are two versions we recommend.

The first option, Wordpress.com is a free option to create a website. It is a very user-friendly tool; it takes you step by step through picking your theme and setting everything up. After the initial setup, they have tutorials that allow you to learn how to manage your website and add to it.

The second option, Wordpress.org is for serious website-builders. It is a paid version, and has more options for plug-ins and website upgrades. If you aren't sure if your website will be worth investing in, you can start with the free version at wordpress.com and then move it over to wordpress.org if it takes off. Here is a [WikiHow](#) on building with Wordpress!

Our favorites
this month

 MissouriPTA



have a legit picnic



Sleep on a trampoline



attend a concert



bake cookies for a nursing home.



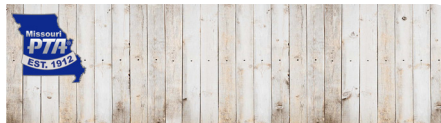
keep a journal



SIT ON A ROOF AND WATCH THE SUNSET

From the team: Missouri PTA Field Service

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We need you!

Missouri PTA Heritage
Regional Director

[More Info & Apply Online](#)

Many who know me have heard me say, "The more we know, the better we do". I use that phrase in many of my workshops and when I am on my "need for training" soapbox. It actually is my take on a quote from Maya Angelou. She said, "Do the best you can until you know better, then when you know better, do better". The quote sums up my view on how PTAs should continually grow. New people who are elected to officer positions generally start with a basic understanding of the responsibilities from the previous person in the position. How they continue from that point is up to them. We, at Missouri PTA, hope that the next steps for a new officer is to access the Missouri and National PTA websites, read the information found in the National PTA Back to School Kit, attend workshops at local Schools of Information and Missouri PTA Convention, participate in PTA Webinars, take e-learning courses, etc.

As I was looking for the actual quote to use in this article, I came across another quote. "It is wiser to find out than to suppose", Mark Twain. This got me thinking on a different path because in reality, most PTA officers, once

they learn what they believe are the basics to keep the PTA going, they stop learning. They start doing it quick n' easy. They don't remember what is in their unit bylaws. They stop using financial best practices. Their meetings have no structure. They do not reach out and include new members because it is just easier to do it themselves. Then they wonder why no one comes to meetings, why no one volunteers, and why no one supports PTA.

You may be familiar with the term, lifelong learner. Many of my friends in education use the term. It is in the Vision Statement of my school district. It says they will foster lifelong learners, productive citizens and responsible leaders for an ever-evolving society. I challenge all PTA members to be lifelong PTA learners. Learning brings advantages. It boosts our confidence. It makes us more open to new ideas and change. It helps us achieve more than we imagined and it can be fun! I encourage everyone to treat each new day as an opportunity to learn, stay open to new people and new ideas. If you do, you will be amazed what PTA can do in your school, for your children, for your community.



Pat Higginbotham

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Pat has served 14 years on Missouri PTA Board of Managers and 23 years involved in PTA. Pat helps PTA & PTSA / Councils through the PTA work at hand as a Regional Director.

Pat is determined, speaks her opinion, is kind, and caring.

Pat's Favorites:

Food **Chicken of any cooking**
TV Show/Movie **Chicago Fire, Code Black, NCIS series, Hallmark Movie channel**

Music/Band **oldies but goodies rock & roll 1960's & 1970's, Nature Sounds.**

Book **children's story books of all ages**
Activities/Hobbies **gardening, painting, restoring items, scrapbooking and small crafts.**

Quote **"I would never ask a person to do something I wouldn't do myself"** by Pat Higginbotham

More about Pat:

What makes you stand out? **I would hope it's my personality.**

Healthy Living Tip **A good night's sleep is the best overall good for your mind and body.**

What are you learning this year **As you help others don't forget to take time for yourself.**

What is a goal you have this year? **Learning new ways & the means to do them**

What is a proud accomplishment? **My family and becoming a volunteer.**
Something interesting you've done this year? **I continue to learn something new every day, so to me all is interesting.**

One thing I have learned about myself is I don't like talking about my accomplishments. I enjoy listening about other people. I'm a person who enjoys listening to other people in what they have to say.

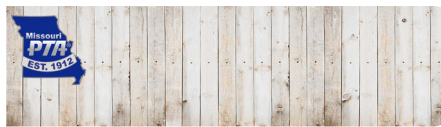
I do unto others as I would have them do unto me. It's important to me what people think of me.

I know I'm not a writer; I'm awful in making sentences and spelling words correctly. (Although I continue to do better) I can talk to anyone and people seem to like my personality.

I'm a pleaser too. I can't take a person being angered at me. I will bend over backwards to get them to understand. I'm not trying to disrespect them in anyway.

From the team: Missouri PTA Legislation & Advocacy

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The Missouri Legislature has wrapped up this term. Missouri PTA has been following many bills pertinent to the children of Missouri. While this session did not see the passage of any bill we were supporting it did see that both Charter schools and vouchers were successfully blocked.

Thank you to everyone who called and emailed our elected officials and please continue to do so in the coming year.

Looking ahead to next session I anticipate that both charter schools and vouchers will be big items on the agenda. Governor Greitens has stated he would like to see a bill on each that we know he will sign into law. MO PTA will be closely monitoring the situation and will alert our membership through JC/DC Action Alerts. Please make sure you respond to them and share with your friends. **Please [enroll in our JC/DC network](#), if you haven't already done so.**

General Revenue Update

As of the end of May, state general revenue had increased by 2.62 percent compared to the previous fiscal year. With just three weeks left in the state fiscal year, which ends on June 30th, it's fairly certain that revenue will not meet the consensus revenue estimate of 3.4 percent.

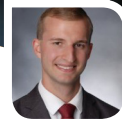
While individual income tax collections have been strong, the ongoing collapse of corporate income tax has significantly hindered state revenue. As of May 31st, corporate tax revenue was 11 percent lower than the previous year.

Though the Department of Revenue has increased the pace at which it is distributing tax refunds to Missourians, the cost of the few remaining refunds is unclear. What is clear, however, is that tax policy has greatly diminished Missouri's ability to collect tax revenue needed for critical public services. Missouri's economy is strong, with the state boasting a low 3.9 percent unemployment rate, meaning more people are working and paying taxes. The slump in state revenue is directly tied to changes in the corporate apportionment formula, which allows multi-state companies to reduce the amount of Missouri taxes they pay.

**This reduction in tax revenue will effect the amount of money public education is given in MO. These funds are vital in the budgets of school districts across MO and this reduction will continue to be detrimental to our children. Missouri PTA has submitted testimony to Governor Greitens Fair Tax Commission. This testimony spoke to the need to pass the Missouri Mainstreet Fairness Act and to oppose proposed legislation abolishing corporate income tax. Missouri PTA is on the MBP Fairness Tax advisory panel. This panel will begin in July. - Carla Wiese, VP and Director of Legislation and Advocacy

Did you know National PTA sends numerous letters to policy makers every year? If you have not read the letters for 2017 they may be found by [clicking here](#).

Trump Budget: A Bad Deal For Kids



Joshua Westfall | National PTA Government Affairs Manager

On May 24, 2017, President Donald Trump released his [budget proposal](#) for the federal government for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 which included a proposed cut of \$9.2 billion to the U.S. Department of Education from last year's funding level. This proposed cut to education programs comes on the heels of Congress cutting funding for federal education programs in FY 2017.

The President's budget would maintain the same level of funding from FY 2017 for Title I, which aids schools with high percentages of children from low-income families, special education grants through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs)—centers that provide information and services to families to help support students with disabilities. Additionally, the President's budget does not include investments for family engagement in education through the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFECS) program and eliminates more than 20 education programs including: educator professional development; after school programs; preschool grants and grants that aim to ensure students receive well-rounded educational opportunities, learn in healthy and safe school environments and have opportunities to use technology in the classroom.

On top of these cuts, the President's budget includes a new \$250 million grant program that would allow public dollars to be used for private and religious school tuition.

National PTA has a long standing [position](#) opposing private school choice systems that would divert public school resources. National PTA is also concerned about a new grant program in Title I that would allocate \$1 billion to "follow" a child to any public school which would significantly impact the distribution

of funds across and within Title I districts and create division and separation within communities.

Federal funding for education programs has remained at 2% of the federal budget for decades, despite continuous growth in public school enrollment and the increased cost of education resources and services. The President's budget would decrease the federal investment in education below 2%. Such devastating cuts to education at the federal level are combined with state and local cuts to education that further lessen the opportunities for every child to reach their full potential.

It is important to remember that the President's budget proposal is exactly that, a proposal to Congress outlining the Trump Administration's priorities. The funding power lies with Congress to decide what federal programs will be funded and at what levels each year. There is a need to invest more in education programs at the federal level. Federal funding for education at, or below, 2% of the federal budget is a cut to classrooms.

If you agree that 2% of federal funding for public education is not enough and future cuts to education would be catastrophic for the future of our children, [Take action](#) today and tell your member of Congress to increase investments for public education so that every child's potential becomes a reality.

Make sure to follow us on Twitter [@National PTA](#) and sign up for the National PTA's [Takes Action Newsletter](#) to participate in the advocacy campaign and receive the latest information on PTA's advocacy efforts.



We want to help you stay informed. Below we have provided a synopsis of each major bill we were following this session.

HB 29 Powdered Alcohol - "The term "intoxicating liquor" shall include "powdered alcohol", which means alcohol that is prepared in a powdered, crystalline, or capsule form either for direct use or for reconstitution in a nonalcoholic liquid." MO PTA provided testimony in support of this bill, which did pass the House and was assigned to a committee and had public hearings held. Unfortunately time ran out before the Senate could vote on it.

HB 261 and SB 68 Human Trafficking - "Prior to January 1, 2018, the department of public safety shall create a poster that provides information regarding the national human trafficking resource center hotline." MO PTA supported these bills with testimony and HB 261 was passed in the House; unfortunately time ran out before the Senate could assign it to a committee. SB 68 did not make it out of the Senate.

HB 274 and SB 40 Raise the Age MO - These bills change "adult" to mean anyone 18 years or older and "child" to mean anyone under the age of 18. The bill also requires children to be prosecuted in juvenile courts unless the child is certified as an adult or is being prosecuted for a traffic or curfew violation. Additionally, the bills specify that no person under the age of 18 may be detained in an adult jail unless the person has been certified as an adult. MO PTA is a member of the Raise the Age Coalition and worked very hard for the passage of these bills. Testimony was sent in support of both these bills and numerous JC/DC Alerts went out to our membership. Neither of these bills were passed but MO PTA is already working with our partners to draft a "better" bill for next session.

HB 441 Conkrite New Voices Act - "The act provides that a student journalist has the right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press in school-sponsored media." MO PTA supported this bill which voted do pass in the House, however, time ran out before the Senate could have a final vote.

HB 634 Charter Schools - "Changes provisions related to charter schools." This bill was difficult for MO PTA. When the bill was first introduced we opposed it with testimony during the public hearing. However, this bill evolved into "charter schools operating under the direct control of the local school district and a 60% or less score in its annual review (ANR) for two years." With the rewording the bill became something MO PTA could support but was attached to another bill we did not have a position on. The bill was passed in the House but did not make it to the Senate.

SB 32 and SB 313 Empower MO Scholarship Fund (vouchers) - "These bills allowed a taxpayer to make a qualifying contribution to an educational assistance organization and claim a tax credit, as described in the act. The tax credit is for one hundred percent of the amount of the contribution. Tax credits authorized under the program are refundable, but may not be transferred, sold, or assigned. The annual cumulative amount of tax credits is limited at \$25 million, which will be adjusted for inflation. The State Treasurer must establish a procedure to allocate the tax credits to the educational assistance organizations on a first come, first served basis. The State Treasurer may reallocate those tax credits to educational assistance organizations that have used all, or a certain percentage, of their tax credits." MO PTA opposed both of these bills with testimony sent and numerous JC/DC alerts. SB 32 did not make it out of the Senate. SB 313 was voted do pass out of the Senate and was voted out of the House committee but time ran out before a full House vote could take place.

SB 105 Streamlined Sales Tax - "This act creates the Missouri Main Street Fairness Act. This act requires the Department of Revenue to enter into the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement allowing for the taxation of Internet sales." MO PTA is a member of the MO Budget Project and supported this bill with written testimony. Unfortunately, this bill was held up in committee and was not voted on in the Senate.

From the team: Missouri PTA Programs

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We need you!

Missouri PTA Reflections Chair
[More Info & Apply Online](#)



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To Do this Month

- Meet with Principal
- Hold a summer meeting with Executive board
- Finalize calendar
- Go over budget if it was not previously adopted
- Review meeting process (agenda/voting/motions)
- Make sure Financial end of year report is finished (out going treasurer)
- Make sure annual review committee is underway (after end of FY)
- After annual review is complete file 990 (best if outgoing treasurer)
- Make a membership campaign plan
- Form a bylaws committee if needed
- Sign up for the [National PTA Back-To-School Kit](#)
- Make sure your unit has insurance
- Plan your volunteer recruitment strategy
- Start advertising your back-to-school activities
- Map out your Reflections program

Updates

This Month's Resources

Reflections Theme Search

Ever wondered where the Reflections Theme comes from? From the minds of students. Each year PTA conducts a Theme search. Ideas are sent into the Theme Search Contest. The student who submits the winning entry has their idea become the official theme and also receives \$100. Right now the search is open for the 2019-2020 Reflections Theme. [Entries](#) are due to Missouri PTA by 10/31/17.

Missouri PTA President Connect Facebook Group

Missouri PTA has a Facebook Group just for unit/council presidents. This resource provides presidents across the state with a networking tool so we can work together to achieve our common goal of helping our children reach their full potential. Being a PTA president has its own unique challenges and no one expects any president to know it all. Share ideas, ask questions, or ask for advice. Send a request to join a <https://www.facebook.com/groups/presidentconnect/>

The New PTA Back-to-School Kit

The [2017-2018 Back-To-School Kit](#) is now live! As always, it's jam-packed with tools, resources and information specially designed to help you run your PTA. The kit is also completely digital and mobile-friendly, meaning you can view it from your phone, tablet or other mobile devices—perfect for the on-the-go PTA leader! We encourage you to share the tool kit with all of your board members.

Bayer is Making Science Make Sense

As a company focused on science and innovation, Bayer has a strong stake in helping to improve science literacy. Through its [Making Science Make Sense](#) initiative, Bayer seeks to advance STEM education across the United States through hands-on, inquiry-based science learning, employee volunteerism, family engagement, community partnerships and public education campaigns. [Dr. Mae Jemison](#), the first African American female astronaut, has served as the Chief Ambassador for the initiative since its inception more than 20 years ago.

As part of its commitment to Making Science Make Sense, Bayer has teamed up with National PTA to support family engagement in science learning through PTA's [STEM Plus Families](#) initiative. Bayer, National PTA and local PTAs have begun working together to host STEM Events across the country, particularly in urban areas, with a focus on girls and under-represented youth.

Bayer also offers a diverse collection of free, online resources to support and nurture an interest in science through its Making Science Make Sense Science Library. From fun hands-on experiments and an interactive [Periodic Table of Elements](#), to community engagement ideas and research surveys focused on STEM education,

the [Science Library](#) has something for everyone and provides an easy way to start engaging the entire family in a science journey.

Top Parenting Resources from Zero to Three

From Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
Sharing helpful resources with families is a great way to build positive relationships that will enhance the child's learning in your classroom. Zero to Three recently created [this webpage](#) full of their highest trending resources for parents. You'll find tools, articles, and videos on topics such as challenging behaviors, brain development, sleep, and play-based learning.

Professional Development Opportunities for Parent Educators

From Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
PAT Professional Learning Communities for the summer are now posted on the [Early Learning website](#). Topics covered include Health and Developmental Screening, Autism, Developmental Delays, and Sensory Processing. Keep an eye on the website for more training opportunities coming this fall.

Missouri ESSA Plan Public Comment Period Now Open

From Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is designed to ensure that all students have a significant opportunity to have a fair and equitable high-quality education and to close education achievement gaps. The public is invited to comment on the Missouri draft Consolidated ESSA Plan through July 15. To read the plan or to comment, please visit [DESE's ESSA Plan website](#).

From the team: Missouri PTA Membership

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We need you!
Missouri PTA Student
Involvement
[More Info & Apply Online](#)

Your 2017-2018 Back-to-School Kit Launches

The [2017-2018 Back-To-School Kit is now available!](#) National PTA has made some big changes—the new kit is going to help you work smarter this year! National PTA is very excited to announce that the PTA Leaders (formerly PTA President), Finance and Membership sections have been revamped to make them even more user-friendly than before.

As always, you can expect valuable tools, resources and downloads designed to help you run your PTA. They're all easy-to-navigate and easy-to-understand, no matter which level of leadership you're preparing for. And you can access all of this info from your smart phone, tablet or laptop—anyplace, anytime.

You will need to register and login to access the website. But rest-assured, the process is easy and National PTA will provide you with step-by-step instructions. As a special bonus, those who register for this year's Back-to-School Kit will get a Recruitment Tool (a tangible packet of PTA marketing materials) and a poster-sized calendar of PTA events for the upcoming school year in the mail. If you have any questions, email National PTA at BackToSchool@PTA.org.

Webinar: The Role of PTA in Supporting Immigrant Families

PTA leaders have an important role in connecting immigrant families to community and school resources to help these families feel more engaged and welcomed in their schools.

[Watch Now.](#)

Webinar: Kids, Stress & Technology

Renowned psychologist Dr. Mary Alvord delivers information from the latest Stress in America report and offers suggestions for families on managing their children's technology use.

[Watch Now.](#)

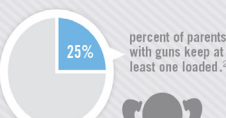
One question could save your child's life



ASK
ASKINGSAVESKIDS

The reality:
Children often have easy access to guns in the home

1 in 3 homes with children in America have guns, many unlocked or loaded.¹

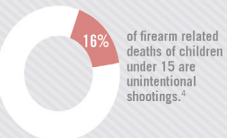


3 in 4 children ages 5-14 know where firearms are kept in the home.³



The problem:
Easy access to guns can lead to tragic consequences for children

9 children and teens are shot every day in gun accidents. That's over 3,000 youth every year.⁴



2nd Guns are the leading cause of death among children and teens.⁴



17,500 youth are injured or killed each year due to gun violence.^{4,5}

The solution:
ASK, "Is there an unlocked gun in your house?" before your child plays at another home

93% of parents, including parents who choose to own guns, would be comfortable with being asked about a gun in their home.⁶

19 Million parents have already begun ASKING this life-saving question!⁶



Asking Saves Lives

More than 18,000 American children and teens are injured or killed each year by guns, making firearms the second leading cause of death for young people. While these numbers are tragic, they're no surprise, given that 1.7 million children and teens live in homes with unlocked, loaded guns.

But there is something parents AND teachers can do to prevent youth gun deaths. Parents can keep children safe by asking this simple question: "Is there a gun where my child plays?" And teachers can be part of the solution by encouraging parents to ask.

The Brady Center is teaming up with public health and educational partners for ASK Day, June 21, when we spread the word about this simple idea that helps keep kids safe. To learn more, visit AskingSavesKids.org and download the [ASK toolkit](#).

College and Career-Readiness: Summer Stride

Summertime means sun and fun, making it the perfect time for learning to come alive for your child! But as parents, we know it isn't always easy to keep children engaged during the break. That's where the "Summer Stride" comes in!

Developed by Learning Heroes, the National Summer Learning Association, and National PTA, read [five simple ideas](#) to help your child stride forward this summer.

College and Career-Readiness: Young People Meeting Their Full Potential

The American Youth Policy Forum's (AYPF) vision is that all young people will be able to meet their full potential in school, career and civic life as a result of our commitment to educate, inform and engage policymakers in the development of effective and supportive youth policies.

[AYPF's College and Career Readiness program](#) area addresses issues of reforming middle and high schools and new strategies to ensure that high school students graduate and are prepared for postsecondary education and careers.

Here are just a few topic areas that AYPF has developed resources on for students and families:

- [Science, Technology, Engineering and Math \(STEM\)](#)
- [Career and Technical Education](#)
- [Dual Enrollment](#)

¹Johnson R, DeBruin-Smyly J, Rynson C. *Firearm Ownership and Storage Practices, U.S. Households, 1992-2002: A Systematic Review*. APJM 2004; 27:2175-182.
²National Survey commissioned by PAX, Inc. Conducted online Dec 1-7, 2011. Survey size: 1,014 parents with children between the ages of 5-18. Margin of error is +/- 3.1%.
³Baskley P, Miller M. *Parental Misconceptions About Children and Firearms*. APJM 2006; 16(3):342-347.
⁴Most recent 5 years of data retrieved from CDC, NCHADS, WISQARS (online) (dated 2015 Apr 15). <http://www.cdc.gov/dataquery/wisqars/online.html>
⁵Most recent 5 years of data retrieved from CDC, NCHADS, WISQARS (online) (dated 2015 Apr 15). <http://www.cdc.gov/dataquery/wisqars/online.html>
⁶National Survey commissioned by PAX, Inc. Conducted Jan 24-Feb 4, 2008. Survey size: 500 parents with children between the ages of 5-14. Margin of error is +/- 4.99%.