

# Missouri PTA Legislative Platform 2021

## Missouri PTA supports:



Legislation that supports increased access to mental health services for children. This includes increases in funding due to the mental health crisis created by COVID and the hiring of additional therapist and counselors within the school districts.



Legislation to strengthen laws designed to protect minors from abuse and increase funding for programs and services aimed at the prevention of child abuse, neglect and maltreatment.



Legislation guaranteeing public funds are not diverted to any private school choice proposal and/or voucher system including opposing tax credits or tax deductions for tuition paid by parent or sponsors for non-public elementary or secondary school children.



Legislation for Juvenile Justice Reform supporting community-based alternatives, implementation of policies to reduce ethnic and socioeconomic disparities within the system, and ensuring juvenile offenders are seen by a juvenile judge and housed in appropriate facilities.



Legislation that will maintain or generate local and state funding for public education. Missouri PTA supports increased COVID funding to be earmarked for public education.



Legislation that would create equitable access to technology and the internet.



Legislation to protect child well-being through access to federal and state nutrition programs, nutrient-rich food, and education focused on healthy habits

These legislative priorities are based on the issues that the Missouri PTA Legislative Department expects to target for the 2021 legislative session. As unexpected issues emerge, Missouri PTA will act in accordance with the resolution and position statements that have been approved by the membership. A complete list of resolutions and position statements are available on our website ([www.mopta.org](http://www.mopta.org)).

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## Missouri PTA supports:



Legislation that protects all children and youth from gun violence and promotes safer schools and communities.



Legislation that would protect children and youth from being discriminated against based on race, religion or sexual orientation.



Legislation that will safeguard the educational and personal records of students with special emphasis on data privacy and security.



Legislation that promotes college and career-ready high school graduates.

Enforcement of legislation requiring school districts to have policies that promote increased parental engagement in their children's education.



Legislation that protects accountability and calls for local control of schools.

PTA defines advocacy as the act of supporting and speaking on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children.  
Advocacy stands alone as the most important job of the PTA.

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