

Contact



FEBRUARY 2021

ARE YOU AN ADVOCATE?

By Carla Wiese, Missouri PTA President

ad-vo-cate

noun /'advəkət/

a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy

verb /'advə,kāt/

publicly recommend or support.

Definitions from Oxford languages

Are you an advocate? Do you advocate? I would guess that you probably have never been asked those questions. As PTA members we should all answer with a resounding YES! As a PTA member, advocates are who we are and advocating is what we do.

PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Advocate is in our mission statement. We not only speak up for children and families, but we teach our children and families how to speak up for themselves. That is powerful! PTA is the **largest** volunteer parent-led advocacy organization in the United States. We speak up in our schools when we notice topics of concern or we praise when we see great things

happening. PTA does amazing things in schools across Missouri. I have seen the playgrounds, family fun nights, STEM activities, field trips, etc. that our PTA units are planning for their schools (even in this crazy year).

At the community level, I see how engaged our PTAs become in school board elections, bond issues and municipal elections. You urge your families to vote! **You are making a difference.** Our schools and communities are better because you advocate.

Let me ask you again, are you an advocate? Do you advocate? Did your answer change?

Missouri PTA, our legislators are proposing bills that would fundamentally change education in Missouri forever. Let that sink in... not for a year, or for five years but forever. When you see a JC/DC alert from us either via your email or our Facebook page, know you are an advocate and you do advocate. Pick up the phone and make a quick call or send an email. You know the importance of public education! Advocates, now is the time to tell your friends, coworkers, teachers, neighbors and anyone who will listen, public education is under attack! I am asking for the sake of every child in Missouri please stand up and loudly say **YOU SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION! Who are we? PTA advocates and we are #PTALoud!**

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Urgent Action Needed!! - SB 55

Harmful Education Bill is scheduled to be debated this week!!

Missouri PTA needs you to contact your Senator today and tell them to support PUBLIC SCHOOLS and vote NO on this combined Voucher and Charter Mega Bill with no local control or oversight.

SB 55 is a mega bill with a long list of provisions hostile to public education. The bill now includes:

- *School Board Member Recall: Requires an election to recall a school board member if a petition is submitted signed by at least 25% of the number of voters in the last school board election.*
- *Education Scholarship Account/Vouchers: Creates up to \$100 million in tax credits for donations to an organization that gives out scholarships for students to attend a home school or private school – including for-profit virtual schools.*
- *Charter School Expansion: Authorizes charter schools to be opened in an additional **61 school districts** located in Jackson, Jefferson, St. Charles, and St. Louis counties or in cities of 30,000 or more and allows charters opened in provisionally and unaccredited districts to remain open even after the school district regains accreditation.*
- *Turning MOCAP into Virtual Charter Schools: Allows students enrolling in MOCAP full time to apply directly to the vendor and cuts the resident school district and professional educators out of the process.*
- *Home school students are allowed to participate in MSHSAA activities. Districts are prohibited from belonging to MSHSAA unless homeschooled students are allowed to participate in district athletics and activities governed by MSHSAA.*
- *Limiting State Board of Education: Restricts members of the state board of education to serve only one full term.*

Please contact your Senator and ask them to support our children and our public schools by OPPOSING SB 55!

Not sure how to contact your state legislators? [Click here and insert your street address or 9-digit zip code.](#)

Contact your Senator today and tell them to SUPPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

NO VOUCHERS

NO CHARTERS



**NO TO DIVERTING
PUBLIC SCHOOL
FUNDING**

**VOTE NO ON
SB 55!!**

**Missouri
PTA**
everychild. onevoice.



WE SUPPORT MISSOURI PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

IMMEDIATE ACTION!



HB349 EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS

JC/DC ACTION ALERT: NO ON HB349!

Contact your Representative today and tell them to support PUBLIC SCHOOLS and vote NO on HB349!!
These scholarships will be used in private schools, effectively creating a voucher system

WHY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION?

AND WHY NOW?

By Burchell McGhee, *Diversity and Inclusion Chair*



The term. The title. The new programs. The new laws. The new requirements. It seems like it's trending all over the country. But why now? Apparently, the obvious (to some) and oblivious (to others) acts of exclusion to persons of a different race, gender, religion, socio-economic status, creed, and/or sexual orientation are now being deemed improper and no longer tolerated. But why did it have to become trendy for some to embrace the concept... of diversity and inclusion?

Did you know that diversity and inclusion is a secret weapon to success? Just think for a minute... Imagine a computer's hard drive or the cloud with everyone's information stored on it. Of course, it's password protected. Well, guess what? Diversity and Inclusion is the key to unlocking those files. By including everyone within your organization's demographics, you can appeal to everyone. Members can contribute information, ideas, and valued input from a much wider spectrum since information is coming from a larger demographic pool of people.

Sometimes, people need to see your organization's efforts to be diverse and inclusive before becoming members. So let's make that effort. Reach out to the underrepresented and let them know that you want them to become part of your organization. Then, your organization can grow and be successful as a unit and as a community.

Advocacy

It's Really Not That Scary

By Paula McKinney, VP of Legislation and Advocacy

Advocacy means taking action to create change. PTA is the oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy association in the United States. Founded in 1897, PTA has a long, successful history of influencing federal policy to promote the education, health, and well-being of all children – resulting in kindergarten classes, child labor laws, school lunch programs, a juvenile justice system, and strengthened parent-teacher relationships. PTA continues that legacy today by fighting for change.

I joined PTA in 1998 as Carnival Chair at the elementary school where I work. I wanted to provide family-friendly programs at our school for the enjoyment of each family. From there, my journey has provided me the opportunity to serve in several elected positions. At the local unit level, I have served as Membership Chair, Secretary, Programs Chair, President and currently Treasurer. On the Council level, I have served as the Secretary, First Vice President-President's Aid, Vice President-Programs, and currently as Treasurer. For Missouri PTA, I have served as Regional Director-Three Trails, Events Coordinator, Secretary, and now Vice President Legislation and Advocacy.

When I was being interviewed by the Missouri PTA nominating committee for this term, we talked about legislation and advocacy. I told them if I had to state my area of weakness for PTA it would be just that. I am a firm believer if you want to become awesome at something, you need to do it. I am not going to lie, advocacy was a scary word for me. My thoughts were why would someone listen to me about legislation and why should they agree to or oppose a bill because I reached out and asked them to. The last few years serving on Missouri PTA have shown me our legislators do want to hear from us and they do listen. When our PTA members come together and reach out to legislators we are powerful!

My passion is children and wanting what is best for them. Now that I am learning about legislation and advocating for ALL children, I see that advocacy is not scary. It is standing up for what we believe in and letting others know. As an advocate we keep the interest of PTA on the minds of policymakers, engage policymakers in a dialog that benefits PTA, and effect the change that will benefit our children for generations to come.



CREATIONS BY BLACK INVENTORS

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Automatic Gear Shift by Richard Spikes in 1932
- America's 1st Clock by Benjamin Banneker
- Automatic Elevator Doors by Alexander Miles
- Blood Bank by Dr. Charles Drew, who was the first black person awarded a doctorate at Columbia University
- Clothes Dryer by George T. Sampson in 1892
- The Dust Pan by Lloyd P. Ray
- Electric Lamp by Lewis Latimer
- Folding Chair by John Purd
- Gas Heating Furnace by Alice H. Parker
- Gas Mask by Garret Morgan
- Golf Tee by Dr. George Grant
- Home Security System by Marie Van Brittar
- Ice Cream Scooper by Alfred L. Cralle in 1897
- Ironing Board by Sarah Boone
- Lawn Mower by John Albert Burr
- Lawn Sprinkler by Joseph A. Smith
- Mail Box by Phillip Downing
- Pacemaker by Otis Boykin
- Potato Chips by George Crum
- Super Soaker by Lonnie G. Johnson
- Traffic Light by Garrett Morgan
- The Blimp by John Pickering



As technology advances, we must think back to some of the earlier inventions that we take for granted that make everyday life tasks easier.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

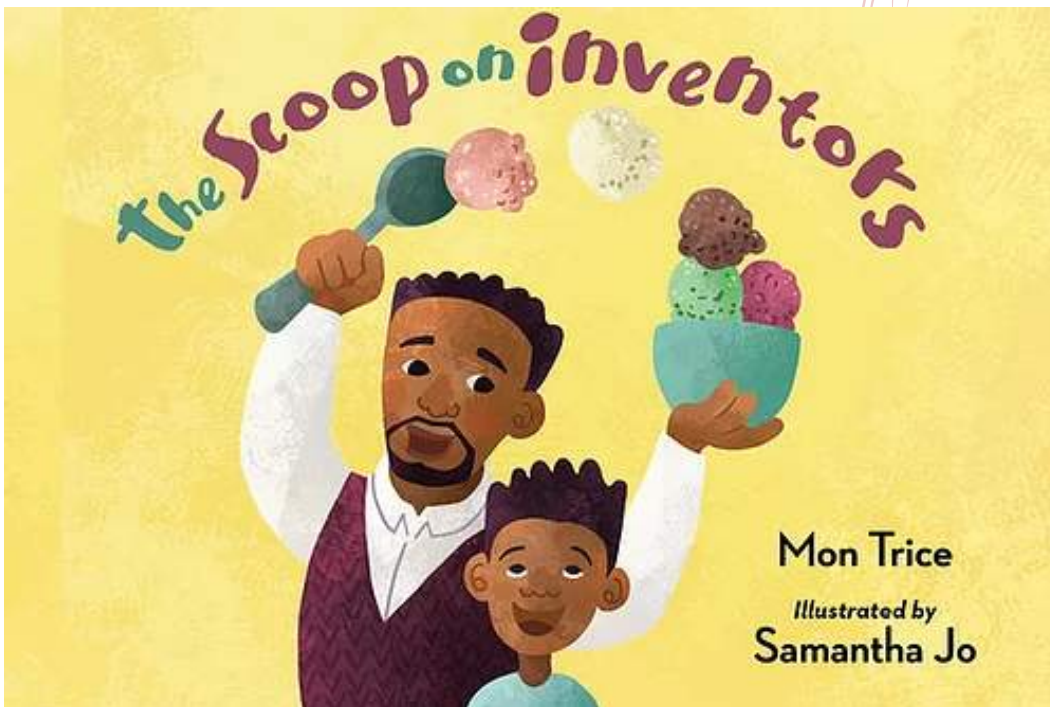
A Good Read for Kids

Missouri children's book author Mon Trice offers a new take on introducing the contributions of black inventors to younger audiences with her new book entitled *The Scoop On Inventors*.

Dré is sad that he didn't learn about any African American inventors during a lesson on inventions at school. But when he and Daddy prepare for Mommy's birthday party, Daddy shows him all the helpful, everyday items African Americans invented.

Use the following link to download a free copy of the book for your family:
<https://www.montrice.net/product-page/the-scoop-on-inventors>

Feel free to explore more resources, materials and books to enjoy as a family at www.montrice.net.



Celebrate Diversity Through Amazing Literature

By Steven Cook, VP & Director of Membership

Title	Author	Age Level
Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad	Ellen Levine	6 yrs & up
This Jazz Man	Karen Ehrhardt	3 yrs & up
Whoever You Are	Mem Fox	4 yrs & up
Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	Doreen Rappaport	5 yrs & up
Who Was Rosa Park?	Yona Zeldis McDonough	8 yrs & up
All Are Welcome	Alexandra Penfold	4 yrs & up
Honeysmoke	Monique Fields, Yesenia Moises	3 yrs & up
Beautiful, Wonderful, Strong Little Me!	Hannah Carmona Dias	3 yrs & up
Skin Like Mine	LaTashia M. Perry	1 yrs & up
Fly High! The Story of Bessie Coleman	Louise Borden, Mary Kay Kroeger	6 yrs & up
March: Book One	John Lewis, Andrew Aydin	13 yrs & up
The Gold Cadillac	Mildred Taylor	9 yrs & up
The Story of Ruby Bridges	Robert Coles	3 yrs & up
I Am Enough	Grace Byers	4 yrs & up
Hair Love	Matthew A. Cherry	3 yrs & up
Princess Hair	Sharee Miller	4 yrs & up
Black Is a Rainbow Color	Angela Joy	4 yrs & up
Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History	Vashti Harrison	8 yrs & up
Piecing Me Together	Renee Watson	12 yrs & up
We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball	Kadir Nelson	9 yrs & up
Young Gifted and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past and Present	Jamia Wilson	7 yrs & up
The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA	Brenda Woods	10 yrs & up

This book list was compiled by Steven Cook, in celebration of Black History Month to bring great literature to readers of all ages. Steven was previously librarian at Walker Elementary School and is currently Assistant Principal at Brown Elementary.

LAST CHANCE

MISSOURI PTA

Scholarship Deadline Extended!

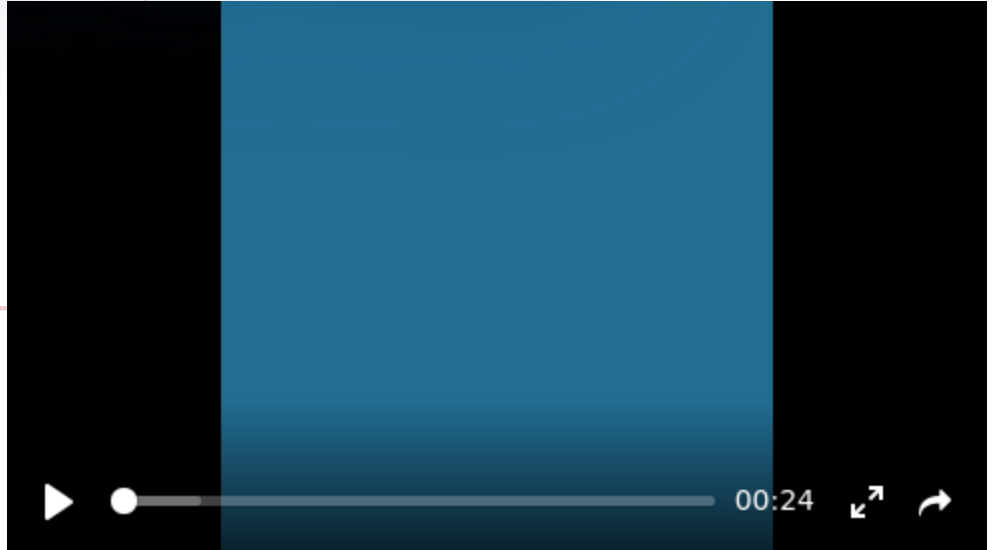


Scholarship applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2021!



UPCOMING *events*

The next session in our MOPTA Zooming Into Membership Series is on Feb. 25th. Click the link to get registered!



Register Today for our February Zooming into Membership Event

Missouri PTA / Matt Hendel

**NEW ADDRESS
NEW ADDRESS
NEW ADDRESS
NEW ADDRESS**

Missouri

PTA[®]

EST. 1912

**PO Box 30545
Columbia, MO 65205**

Please be sure all your forms and records are updated with the new address for Missouri PTA found on the right, including mailed due submissions.

Vision
Improving Lives through Education

Mission
Providing Access to Opportunity



Margie Vandeven, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

Priority Areas



Early Learning
& Early Literacy



Success-Ready
Students & Workforce
Development



Safe & Healthy
Schools



Educator
Recruitment
& Retention

Public Education Snapshot

2020 data for K-12 students unless otherwise noted

917,325
PK-12 students

69,849
PK-12 teachers

554
local districts & charter
schools

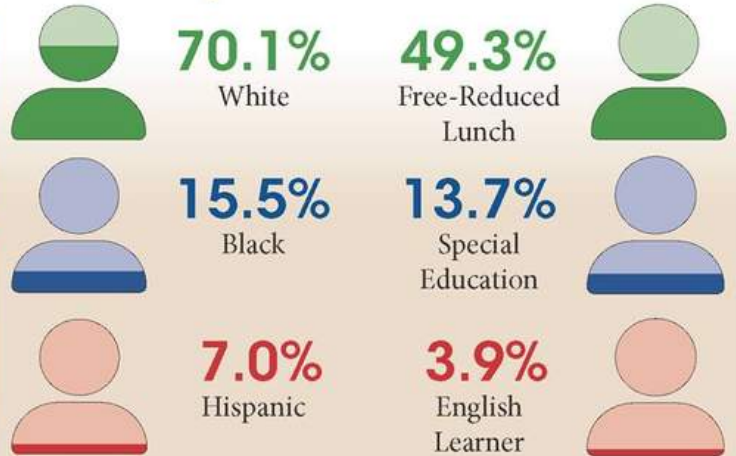
19.9%
student mobility rate



Spartan R-3

In 2019-20,
64,924
children birth-K
screened through
MO Parents as Teachers

A Glimpse at Who We Serve



11,899 buses transported more than
570,000 students daily, traveling over
98 million miles in 2019-20

**COVID-19
Response
Efforts**

61.8 million+
meals served
to students and families

3,600+
substitute teachers on new
path to earn certification
supporting school staffing

236,520
antigen tests
shipped to schools

100+
webinars and virtual
meetings for stakeholders

553
local plans for
alternative methods of
instruction approved

\$300 million
in CARES Act grants
distributed to schools to
meet student needs

8.6 million
cloth masks
provided to schools

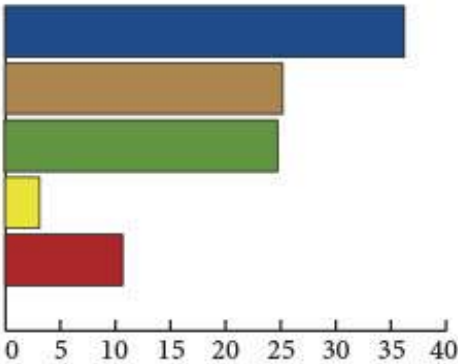


Success-Ready Students

2019-20 data unless otherwise noted

2019 Graduates 180-Day Follow-Up

Local education agencies report to DESE



Grandview High School

20.7
average ACT score

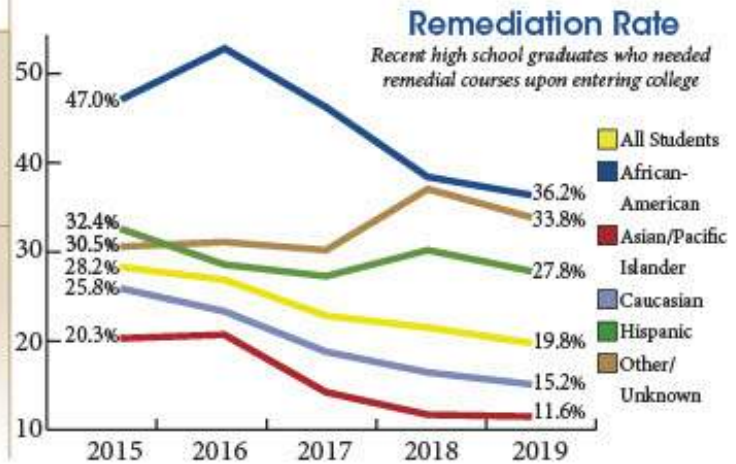
83.3%
4-year graduation rate

57
area career centers
in MO

63.5%
of high school students took
at least one CTE course

93.8%
of recent CTE graduates
are employed, continuing
education or serving
in the military

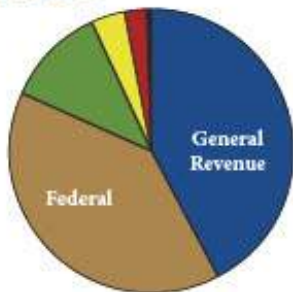
5,366
high school
students earned
an industry-recognized
certificate or credential



DESE Administration & Funding

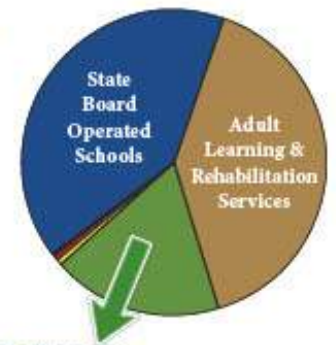
DESE FY2021 Revenue Sources \$8,530,338,208

- General Revenue 42.28%
- Federal 39.56%
- Proposition C Sales Tax 11.24%
- Classroom Trust Fund 4.14%
- Lottery, Bingo & Tobacco Settlement 2.49%
- Other .29%



Where DESE's 1,651 full-time employees serve (FY2021)

- State Board Operated Schools 673
- Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services 659
- Jefferson Building (Learning Services/ Financial & Administrative Services) 299
- Missouri Assistive Technology 9
- Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing 8
- Missouri Charter Public School Commission 3



Jefferson Building FTE Funding Source

- Federal 170
- State 129



DESE will distribute **97.1%** of FY2021 revenue to local education agencies



dese.mo.gov



573-751-3469



communications@dese.mo.gov



fb.com/MOEducation



twitter.com/MOEducation



youtube.com/MODEptofEducation



P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480

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COVID-19

2020 Response Efforts

From the outset of the pandemic, the

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education worked to ensure:

- Missouri students continued to be supported, fed and provided high-quality learning
- School leaders had the resources and flexibility necessary to remain focused on the health and safety of students and personnel

Data as of Jan. 12, 2021

 Working to distribute **\$308 million+** in CARES Act grants to support school's efforts to meet student needs

 **236,520** Antigen Tests shipped to date to **356** participating schools

8.6 million masks  provided to schools

 Approved **553** local plans for alternative methods of instruction

3,600+ substitute teachers earned certification through new online training to support increased demand from schools

Missouri Learning, Engagement and Preparation resources to support acceleration of learning

Social-emotional learning supports created to address student and staff mental health challenges 

New online testing options for teacher candidates to ensure the teacher pipeline remains strong

 **61.6 million+** meals served to students and families

Nearly **62,000** Pandemic EBT applications processed for **118K+** children

 **100+** webinars and virtual meetings for stakeholders

10 hours of free distance learning professional development that's been viewed **11,500+** times

 **Hundreds of pages** of guidance created about

- Alternative Methods of Instruction
- Assessment
- Attendance
- CARES Act Grants
- First Step Services
- Food Service
- Graduating Seniors
- School Finance
- Special Education
- Reopening Plans

 **17** statutes waived temporarily for added flexibility

 **Normal Business** during Abnormal Times

Nearly **27,000** teacher certificates processed

98% of sheltered workshops maintained operations

78,086 Disability Determinations claims processed

Uninterrupted access to services for **over 12,000** Vocational Rehabilitation consumers

20,187 individuals served at **22** Independent Living Centers

NOW HIRING!

Part-time Administrative Assistant Position
in Columbia, MO area!

Email resume and cover letter to:
President@mopta.org



CLICK HERE

*Order your apparel, supplies
and gifts all in one place!*



Shop**PTA.com**

**Now offering Pandemic &
Anti-Bullying Products**