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!

MISSOURI PTA DOES NOT ENDORSE ANY COMMERCIAL ENTITY, PRODUCT OR SERVICE. NO ENDORSEMENT IS IMPLIED.
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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!!

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.
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 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.

Why Advocate?
“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, Nothing is going to get better. It's not.”
- Dr. Seuss, The Lorax
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.
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

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

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.
MISSOURI PTA

Scholarship Deadline Extended!

Scholarship applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2021!

March 1

mopta.org
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

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.
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

70.1%
White

49.3%
Free-Reduced Lunch

15.5%
Black

13.7%
Special Education

7.0%
Hispanic

3.9%
English Learner

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

11,899 buses transported more than 570,000
98 million
students daily, traveling over 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

- 4-Year College 36.2%
- 2-Year College 25.2%
- Employed 24.7%
- Military 3.2%
- Other/Unknown 10.7%

- 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%

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

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

Remediation Rate

Recent high school graduates who needed remedial courses upon entering college

- All Students
- African-American
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Caucasian
- Hispanic
- Other/Unknown

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

State Board Operated Schools

Adult Learning & Rehabilitation Services

Jefferson Building FTE Funding Source

State 129

Federal 170

Page 14

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, veteran status, mental or physical disability, or any other basis prohibited by statute in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Director of Civil Rights Compliance and MOA Coordinator (Title VI/Title IX/504/ADA/ADAAMS/Age Act/GINA/USDA Title VI), 5th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number 573-526-4757 or TTY 800-735-2966; email civilrights@dese.mo.gov.
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

**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**

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

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

**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
- CARES Act Grants
- First Step Services
- Food Service
- Graduating Seniors
- School Finance
- Special Education
- Reopening Plans

**17 statutes waived temporarily for added flexibility**

**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!

ShopPTA.com
Now offering Pandemic & Anti-Bullying Products