

2023 Legislative Platform



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.

MISSOURI PTA SUPPORTS:

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Legislation to address the current youth mental health crisis, inclusive of coordinated, comprehensive, culturally competent and effective mental and behavioral health services in the school setting and invest in Missouri's future.

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 therapists and counselors within the school districts.

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

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.

DATA PRIVACY

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

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Legislation that ensures our children are protected from harm and support schools in their efforts to create safe and welcoming spaces for every child to enhance development, growth and safety for all of Missouri's students.

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.

CHILD HEALTH & NUTRITION

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

Legislation to address the manufacturing of and ingredients in e-cigarettes and other ENDS (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems) as well as to prohibit the advertising, marketing and sale of e-cigarettes and other ENDS, to youth (18 years or younger) and to prohibit the use of e-cigarettes and other ENDS in public places and on school grounds.