



# 2024 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 role of the PTA.

Missouri PTA Supports:



## PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING & SUPPORT

- o Legislation that maintains or generates local and state funding for public education and/or prohibits redirection of public funds to any school choice program and/or voucher system.
- o Legislation that promotes college and career-ready high school graduates.



## CHILD/YOUTH MENTAL & PHYSICAL HEALTH & NUTRITION

- o Legislation that addresses the youth mental health crisis by increasing access to mental health services that are coordinated, comprehensive, and culturally competent in the school setting. This includes increased funding for additional therapists, counselors, and social workers in school districts.
- o Legislation to protect child well-being through access to federal and state nutrition programs, nutrient-rich food, and education focused on healthy habits.
- o 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.
- o Legislation to address the manufacturing of and ingredients in e-cigarettes and other ENDS (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems) as well as prohibit the advertising, marketing and sale of e-cigarettes and other ENDS to minors and prohibit the use of e-cigarettes and ENDS in public places and on school grounds.



## COMMUNITY & SCHOOL SAFETY & YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- o Legislation that ensures our children are protected from harm and supports schools in their efforts to create safe, inclusive, and welcoming spaces for every child.
- o Legislation for Juvenile Justice Reform that supports community-based alternatives, implementation of policies to reduce ethnic and socioeconomic disparities within the system, and ensures juvenile offenders are seen by a juvenile judge and housed in appropriate facilities.



## DATA PRIVACY

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

These legislative priorities are based on the issues that the Missouri PTA Legislative Department expects to target for the 2024 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)).