

ADVOCACY

MAKING EVERY CHILDS POTENTIAL A REALITY



PTA: A Voice for All Children – All Year

PTA's are comprised of families, teachers and community members committed to providing educational opportunities that make every child's potential a reality. Being an active voice in your community for all children and for public education starts with advocating for the issues that will have an impact today and tomorrow for the children in our schools across Illinois.

What is Advocacy?

PTA members are the heart of advancing legislation that provides all *"children with access to a high-quality public education in a learning environment that is safe, healthy and secure."*(National PTA Legislative Checklist 2019) Advocacy takes time and effort and happens all year long – not only when the Illinois General Assembly is in session. Work with your local units to identify a PTA member who is interested in taking on the Legislation Chair role. Their role is central to education for PTA members, their local school board and as an advocate with their state representatives and senators.

Advocacy and Action:

Be creative in the ways that you engage and advocate for your community. Consider hosting meet and greets with your local representatives and include all nominees/candidates for any office. Work with your school district to invite local legislators to tour your schools to have a "day in the life" experience and highlight the unique programs and services as well as challenges that they need to understand and discuss with their colleague. PTA's are non-partisan and our advocacy work offers many opportunities to engage all our leaders. Advocacy can happen in your community schools and in Springfield! Use this resource for hosting a candidate forum: <http://www.pta.org/.../hostingacandidateforum.pdf>

Join the PTA Take Action Network to be informed:

Stay up to date on current legislation and issues: [Take Action!](#) Use this PTA resource to learn how to bring attention to an issue impacting the children in your community. Ask for advocacy training for your local PTA.

Develop a Resolution for IL PTA to consider:

A Resolution is the statement of a problem that impacts our children, followed by a call to action by our members to resolve the issue. **See a list of IL PTA Resolutions on the following page.

Who's Advocating for Your Children? We ALL are. The Illinois PTA!

Whether trying to ensure that children are immunized against disease, have access to quality education, or protected against school violence, PTA members make themselves heard – for every child, in one voice!