

Illinois PTA 2023 Dues Increase: Q&A

The Illinois PTA Board of Directors will present a bylaw amendment at the 2023 Illinois PTA Convention to increase the Illinois PTA portion of membership dues. The motion will be voted on by electronic ballot by the voting delegates registered.

Q. How much is the proposed dues increase recommended by the Illinois PTA Board of Directors?

A: 50 cents. The Illinois PTA dues portion of a local PTA/PTSA membership will increase from \$2.25 to \$2.75.

Q. Why is the Illinois PTA Board of Directors recommending dues increase at this time?

A: Illinois PTA revenue has steadily decreased over the past 6 years as costs have increased. The Illinois PTA has cut expenditures to offset the revenue loss. The pandemic required more cuts. Last year, delegates to the 2022 Illinois PTA Convention did not approve a dues increase. To decrease expenses as revenue decreased, Illinois PTA has needed to:

- reduce in-person region and district events
- reduce leadership training opportunities
- decline representation opportunities
- cut our staff and close the office
- delay the roll-out of new programs
- elimination of Illinois PTA representation at National PTA events and conferences

The injection of \$75.3K received from COVID Relief funds over the past 4 years helped, but Illinois PTA only stayed afloat by implementing these expense cuts. Without the COVID Relief funds and expense cuts listed above, Illinois PTA would have accumulated a deficit of \$228.0K over this same period, an average of \$55.6K per year.

The 50-cent dues increase requested will increase our projected revenue by \$25.0K per year. Illinois PTA will be able to re-establish services that have been cut during the past 6 years and introduce new programs and opportunities to regions, districts, councils, local PTA/PTSAs and members. Many of our expense cuts will remain, such as, closing of the office, transitioning to outside contractor vs. payroll employee, utilizing virtual options when possible. See [proposed budget](#) for details.

Q. How will not passing the dues increase impact the Illinois PTA?

A. Illinois PTA will need to further reduce region and district events and advocacy activities to offset the projected deficit.

Q. Who will decide if the proposed dues increase is adopted?

A. The proposed dues increase will be presented to the delegates at the 2023 Illinois PTA Convention held

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virtually on April 20 and 22, 2023.

Q: Who are the delegates that will vote at the 2023 Illinois PTA Convention?

A: Every region, district, council, and local PTA/PTSA in good standing may register delegates for the 2023 Illinois PTA Convention. In accordance with ARTICLE XXII of the Illinois PTA bylaws, each local PTA/PTSA unit shall be entitled to be represented at an annual or special convention by its president or president-elect and additional delegates based on the bylaws. Each council shall be entitled to be represented by its president and three (3) delegates. Each district and region shall be entitled to be represented by four (4) delegates chosen from and by its respective board.

Q: If the proposed Illinois PTA dues increase passes at the 2023 Illinois PTA Convention, what is the timing of the rollout?

A: The motion from the Illinois PTA Board of Directors includes a July 1, 2023 implementation date.

Q: What if a member joins for 2023-2024 before the proposed implementation date of July 1, 2023?

A: Any member who pays dues for the 2023-2024 year prior to July 1, 2023 should pay the \$2.25 National PTA dues plus the approved Illinois PTA dues for 2023-2024. The local PTA/PTSA should hold the state and National PTA dues portion for 2023-2024 under a separate finance line item in 2022-2023 audit and in the 2023-2024 proposed budget and then submit the required membership information and dues (state and National PTA portion) to Illinois PTA in July 2023.

Q: What if a member joins for the 2023-2024 year before July 1, 2023 but the local PTA/PTSA does not collect membership dues reflective of the approved Illinois PTA dues?

A: The local unit will have to submit the new approved Illinois PTA membership dues amount to Illinois PTA. The local unit would then need to go back to the individual members to get the membership dues. To avoid this, Illinois PTA highly recommends local PTA/PTSAs build their 2023-2024 membership drives to reflect the approved Illinois PTA dues amount.

Q: When should a local PTA/PTSA start to discuss the potential dues increase?

A: Now! Even though the vote does not happen until the end of March, it is never too early for local PTA leaders to let their members know that a dues increase effective July 1, 2023 for the 2023-2024 membership year is being presented for approval at the Illinois PTA Convention. Your PTA/PTSA can also start to identify the documents and resources that need updating so they are ready to make changes after the vote at the Illinois PTA Convention.

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Q: How do I know which document to review and update first?

A: You should review your key documents first—bylaws and policies and any membership drive materials.

Q: What are the options for local PTA/PTSAs to implement the Illinois PTA dues increase?

A: If an Illinois PTA dues increase is approved by the delegates at the Illinois PTA Convention, local PTA/PTSAs may need to either increase their membership dues to include the higher Illinois PTA dues portion or absorb it by reducing the local membership portion.

Example: The local PTA/PTSA membership dues are made up of three items—local membership dues, state membership dues and National PTA membership dues.

Current membership dues for a local unit:

Local Membership Dues Portion	\$5.50
State Membership Dues Portion	\$2.25
<u>National Membership Dues Portion</u>	<u>\$2.25</u>
Total Membership Dues Amount	\$10.00

With 50 cent Illinois PTA dues increase:

Option 1: Increase the membership dues amount.

Local Membership Dues Portion	\$5.50
State Membership Dues Portion	\$2.75
<u>National Membership Dues Portion</u>	<u>\$2.25</u>
Total Membership Dues Amount	\$10.50

Option 2: Absorb the membership dues amount.

Local Membership Dues Portion	\$5.00
State Membership Dues Portion	\$2.75
<u>National Membership Dues Portion</u>	<u>\$2.25</u>
Total Membership Dues Amount	\$10.00

Q: Is there an Internal Revenue Code (IRS) that prohibits local PTA/PTSAs from paying the Illinois PTA and National PTA membership portions from its own funds?

A: No. However, if a local PTA/PTSA pay the dues or part of the dues for one member, they must make that same accommodation available to everyone. This is not an Illinois PTA rule it is part of the laws that govern non-profits in the US. No one individual can benefit financially from a non-profit. This is reiterated in your bylaws, ARTICLE IV - BASIC POLICIES, #f.

Q: Our local PTA/PTSA bylaws contain the current amount of Illinois PTA dues (\$2.25). If the Illinois PTA dues amount is changed at convention, do we have to amend our local PTA/PTSA bylaws to reflect the new Illinois PTA dues amount before we start to collect the different Illinois PTA dues amount?

A: No. The adoption of an amendment to the state bylaws shall serve automatically and without the requirement of further action by the local PTA/PTSA units. When the local PTA/PTSA's bylaws are next required to be reviewed (every two years) the current local unit bylaws template will include any change in dues."