

Statements of Policy

The following Statements of Policy direct the actions of the State PTA. These statements are adopted by the State Board of Directors.

Nonpartisan Policy as it Relates to School Boards

The state board of directors of the Illinois PTA recognizes the importance of having the best-qualified people as members of school boards. Local units should keep in mind the potential of the PTA for important, long range, constructive contributions to public education and not allow themselves to be drawn into support of individual candidates.

Any group activity in support of a specific candidate, or group of candidates, on the part of the local unit, council, district, or state branch is a violation of the nonpartisan policy of the National PTA. (Editor's note; It would also violate US Internal Revenue Service rules and regulations.)

There is no contradiction between the nonpartisan policy of the National PTA and privileges and responsibilities of its members as citizens in a democracy. The Illinois PTA encourages each member as an individual to accept his privileges as a citizen and to discharge the accompanying responsibilities. Citizenship offers individual choice.

When questions arise concerning caucuses, each shall be treated individually, and requests for help be put in writing and addressed to the Illinois PTA executive committee, accompanied by the bylaws of the caucus group.

Each local unit PTA should and must respect the members of their individual organization, and other levels of the PTA, by complying with each of the items listed below, which then allows the association to call itself a "PTA Local Unit in Good Standing."

PTA Local Unit in Good Standing

- Adhere to the purposes and basic policies of the PTA;
- Observe the Illinois PTA Charter Rules;
- Register the local unit each year using the appropriate registration forms. Failure to complete and return forms will prevent the local unit from receiving membership cards and any other state or National PAT mailings, until the form is received;
- Remit the following to the state office: first dues payment prior to October 1st; a copy of the prior year's audit; a copy of the prior year's tax form, or receipt if filed electronically;
- A local unit that fails to remit a dues payment before June 30th shall discontinue use of the PTA name for all activities, including fundraising, Illinois PTA tax exemption letter, and Federal Employer Identification Number;
- Failure to remit a dues payment by 12/31 will result in the unit being: declared delinquent; removed from the Illinois PTA and National PTA mailing lists; ineligible to participate in the PTA insurance programs, Reflections program and convention delegate status; and removed from Illinois PTA group exemption status with the Internal Revenue Service and the State of Illinois Sales Tax Exempt Status;
- Secure liability insurance or submit a waiver form;
- Audit financial records at least annually and comply with the Internal Revenue Service requirements for nonprofit organizations including filing necessary forms;
- Use Illinois PTA procedures and materials to keep accurate and detailed financial records, to adopt an annual budget and fundraise only to fulfill budget requirements;
- Have bylaws reviewed at least every as required under the direction of the region director or appropriate member of the state board of directors
- Send all local unit elected officers to the required Illinois PTA leadership courses within time frames prescribed in their local unit bylaws, and attend leadership development programs; also invites general membership to do the same; and
- Attend council, and/or region meetings and conferences, and send delegates to the Illinois PTA State Convention and National PTA in accordance with local bylaws.

School Tax Referenda

The Illinois PTA Legislation Platform states that the Illinois PTA supports “Adequate, equitable, and sustainable sources of revenue for schools.” Further, it states support for “New sources of state revenue, including consideration of a state tax on services,” and “Necessary increases or modifications on present taxes, such as the income tax, with the exception of an increase in state sales tax on basic items such as food and medicine.”

Both of these positions make it very clear that PTAs must recognize that they have a clear responsibility to work to assure that our schools are adequately and equitably funded.

One of the major sources of monies for our schools is the local real estate (property) tax. The School Code authorizes certain maximum tax rates for school districts for real estate taxes in several funds. If a district feels it needs more local tax dollars than are allowed by the Code, it may ask the voters in their district for an increase in a tax rate for a specific fund through a school tax referendum.

Once a PTA has decided a request for a local real estate tax rate increase is necessary, it is absolutely appropriate for that PTA to enthusiastically support and actively work for a school tax referendum authorizing such an increase.

Supporting a school tax referendum is not a partisan political activity. Partisan political activity involves supporting a specific candidate, something PTAs cannot do. Supporting a school tax referendum is supporting an issue, and is a proper function of a PTA.

Unit Organization

The Illinois PTA believes that each group of parents and teachers should have the type of PTA organization that best serves the needs of themselves, their children, and their community in keeping with the Purposes of the National PTA.

As a general rule, PTA units should be organized around a single school building with corresponding autonomy. Coordination and cohesion of PTA activities in a school district are best brought about by means of a council of separate units. It is recognized that in some small communities a combined PTA may be best. However in many growing communities the combined PTA should move toward reorganization into separate units to give more effective help to parents, teachers, children and youth.

A COMBINED UNIT is any association, which includes membership from elementary through high school and/or membership from more than one building at the same grade level, but with single meetings and no sub- organization by building.



everychild.onevoice.®
cada niño.una voz.®

To meet the needs of a variety of individuals and to allow them to participate in the benefits of PTA, the following local units not affiliated with a single school building may be organized: early childhood, corporate, community or any other approved by the state board of directors.

A VILLAGE PLAN UNIT is any association serving two or more school buildings in a community operating under a single charter but subdivided into subgroups holding separate meetings with their own sub-officers and/or sub-chairmen. The district directors shall not permit the organization of village plan PTAs and in the future, no charter shall be issued to such units. It shall be the duty of field service representatives, district directors, and other state board members to implement the reorganization of those in existence.

It shall be the policy of the Illinois PTA that all materials shall be distributed on the basis of a chartered unit only with no additional distribution for combined or village plan organization except as such materials are available for purchase by all units.