

The following are the proposed Arizona PTA Legislative Platform Priorities. They will be available on the Arizona PTA website for review and will be presented for approval at the 2023 convention.

Arizona PTA 2022-2023 Proposed Legislative Platform Priorities

Arizona PTA and its constituent local PTA/PTSA units are members of the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the nation.

Our association provides families with a powerful voice by speaking on behalf of every child while providing the best tools for families and communities to help their children to be healthy, safe and successful as students. Arizona PTA and National PTA work in cooperation with many state and national education, health, safety and child advocacy groups, as well as state and federal agencies to collaborate on projects that benefit children and bring valuable resources to our members. In Arizona, the term, “public schools” refers to both charter and State owned “public” schools.

I. Public Education – Arizona PTA

A. Will work towards:

1. the creation of sound and sustainable public education revenue streams necessary and appropriate to invest in quality teaching and learning that meets high standards.
2. educating the public and legislators about the effects of inflation on education funding.
3. increasing funding for all public schools; district and charter, with a targeted, sustainable and fair solution that acknowledges current levels of funding are both inadequate and inequitable.

B. Support:

1. efforts and incentives to ensure a supply of capable and highly qualified teaching professionals for the education of Arizona’s children and youth.
2. school districts to provide effective professional development to promote excellence in the classroom.
3. public schools by ensuring that the historic school trust lands are allowed to fulfill the purpose for which they were originally created and advocate for sound financial management of the school trusts to provide the maximum benefit to the children in public education who are the beneficiaries of those trusts and shall work to ensure that these funds do not supplant existing education funding.
4. (as a matter of public interest) accountability and greater transparency, Arizona PTA supports separating voucher school funding from community-based school funding and the State’s general fund.
5. legislation that increases transparency and accountability in reporting from all schools that receive any public funds used for K-12 education, and that all reports are equitable and include performance measures.
6. investing in the education of the whole child, including but not limited to art, music, technical education, critical thinking, decision- making and creative thinking, instead of the use of high stakes testing as the only criteria to determine eligibility for grade promotion or graduation
7. effective, high-quality early childhood education and development programs that are adequately funded and accessible; are developmentally appropriate and that coordinate comprehensive services for young children and their families; characterized by high standards for teaching, training, health and safety and incorporate strong family engagement components.
8. expanding Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten to fund school districts ready to implement the program with ability to lease spaces and use mixed delivery models at the site and district level.
9. high-quality after-school programming that is affordable and accessible for all children; and characterized by high standards for teaching, training, health and safety
10. high-quality education standards for K – 12; and supports families, teachers and community to advocate for the policies and resources needed for Arizona schools and school districts to develop, implement, maintain and evaluate adopted standards and enacted policies.
11. the ability of Arizona post-secondary institutions to partner with high schools to preserve the early college opportunities for juniors and seniors without interruptions in concurrent enrollment with blended delivery models.

12. the updating and continued examination of high school course and standards requirements to best equip young adults with the knowledge and life skills to be productive citizens and meet the changing and complex challenges of the World's Best Workforce.
13. access to the opportunity for post-secondary education including College, Trade School, and Military Service.
14. legislation that advocates for the rights of ALL children. These rights include, but are not limited to confidentiality of school records, equal access to quality public education, adequate food and shelter, and their health care services, including mental health assessment and treatment

C. Oppose:

1. any public funds being funneled to private or religious schools in any form including tuition tax credits and vouchers.

II. Health and Safety – Arizona PTA

A. Will work towards:

1. ensuring the safety of children, youth, and school personnel in all school settings is a fundamental right and will work to support state and federal programs and policies related to that right.
2. the development of programs within Arizona's schools to educate students, families, and the community regarding excessive heat days and/or excessive ultraviolet index days.

B. Support:

1. education, programs and policies that promote the importance of improving child and youth wellness and safety to reflect the current health and safety evidence-based information and science trends.
2. education and key employees that support the whole child, which includes support for students suffering from emotional trauma. This can be the result of the loss of a loved one, removal from the home, suicide of a classmate or other harrowing circumstance.
3. the allocation of funding to mandate licensed, registered nurses to be on duty at the appropriate ratio in each school district and charter school.
4. policies and programs that address the prevention, intervention and elimination of bullying, and the advancement of research-based Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) programs in schools.
5. protection of children and youth from violence in schools.
6. promotes the importance of healthy eating and physical activity both at home and at school among children and youth to combat the growing national epidemic of childhood obesity.
7. students, families, and community to advocate for schools and school districts to develop and implement policies for school recess that include adequate unstructured outdoor play and indoor play (for inclement weather days); that include student education about safe playground rules, ensure the safety of playground equipment, and develop an adequate adult to student ratio.
8. educating the public on firearm safety and current information on gun safety devices as well as requiring making stored guns inaccessible to children to reduce the risk of accident, suicide and homicide.
9. legislation to ensure that the rights of children and youth with behavioral and mental illnesses are protected and to encourage and facilitate consumer and family input into all aspects of an individual's treatment and plan for recovery.
10. legislation regarding the proper use of infant/toddler car seats, child booster seats, and seat belts to reflect what is nationally recommended by both the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration as well as the American Academy of Pediatrics.
11. encourage education and awareness of dangers of ENDS (electronic nicotine delivery systems), including but not limited to e-cigarettes, Juuls, and other vaping devices and the marketing of these devices to youths.

C. Oppose:

1. any form of corporal punishment in schools and all other institutions, public and private, where children are cared for and educated and supports legislation to outlaw the practice.
2. all legislative attempts to suppress aggregate information about family diversity and sexual orientation.

III. Family and Community Engagement – Arizona PTA

A. Will work towards:

1. the creation of effective family focused school-based interventions for children who are truant.
2. awareness about the growing need to provide consumer protection for youth and families.

B. Support:

1. comprehensive and evidence-based policies at the state and local levels that seek to engage families and members of the community at every level of education and will effectively involve and include families and whole communities in the education of children.
2. community engagement policies, procedures, and laws which assure that school-based decisions such as school policies, curriculum decisions, and all programs related to the public schools are made with the input of families.
3. increasing community awareness and establishment of legislation regarding leaving children unattended in vehicles, particularly during times of extreme temperatures.

Arizona PTA will monitor all legislation and will take positions to support bills that enhance and oppose bills that detract from the Arizona PTA Legislative Platform.

The Legislative Platform represents Arizona PTA's current legislative priorities. It is based on the public policy statements and resolutions of the Arizona PTA and National PTA. The 2023-2024 Legislative Platform will be voted upon at the Arizona PTA Convention General Session I on June 9, 2023