

FACT SHEET

MEMBERSHIP

Membership statewide is comprised of hundreds of thousands of parents, teachers, administrators, students and other child advocates in approximately 1,600 local units and councils.

MISSION STATEMENT

PTA is

- A powerful voice for all children,
- A relevant resource for families and communities, and
- A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

PRESIDENT

Bonnie Russell

Administration Theme: Communicate to Advocate

HISTORY

New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers is the first state branch of the National Congress, organized in October 1897. In 1899 it was incorporated as The Mothers' Assembly of the State of New York. In 1920 it was reincorporated as the New York State Congress of Mothers' and Parent-Teacher Associations. In 1925 the name was changed to the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. The State PTA:

- Coordinates programs statewide on behalf of children and youth.
- Is represented on state committees and commissions dealing with children and youth.
- Provides conferences, workshops, publications and resource materials on issues and leadership development.
- Services units and councils through its 16 region PTAs.

CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES

Legislation/Education Conference: Usually held in late February or early March, PTA child advocates meet in Albany to address concerns about trends and conditions affecting children and youth.

Summer Leadership Conference: Training through workshops and idea-sharing are offered to assist unit and council leaders in all facets of leadership and held at the end of July or beginning of August.

State Annual Convention: Held in November, nearly 500 members from across the state come together to share information, elect officers, adopt resolutions and attend workshops.

Note: For specific dates, locations and registration information check www.nyspta.org.

PUBLICATIONS

Fast Facts: A monthly newsletter of current information, issues and events, sent to PTA presidents to share with members.

New York Parent Teacher: Published four times a year, this periodical focuses on topics of concern to parents, educators and others interested in the well being of children and youth.

New York State PTA Resource Guide: A comprehensive resource of PTA information; available for all members on the Your PTA section of the NYS PTA website.

Advocacy Newsbriefs: Monthly legislative and advocacy publication.

Where We Stand: NYS PTA's official advocacy document, including resolutions and position papers.

CURRENT PROGRAMS

Parents As Reading Partners (PARP): Initially created by Sen. James Donovan and now administered by NYS PTA, this program encourages literacy-based activities.

Reflections Program: Facilitated through National PTAs Reflections Program, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the Arts by pre-K – 12th grade students.

FIELD SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

The New York State PTA provides field service to local units statewide through region conferences, workshops, schools of instruction, publications and materials.

OUR WORK WITH COALITIONS, COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS

New York State PTA, as the recognized statewide parent association, is a member of many statewide coalitions, commissions and boards. When the State Education Department is looking for parent input, we are the group to whom they look for representatives. Listed are some of the groups with which we work:

Educational Conference Board (ECB): A coalition of statewide educational organizations representing parents, teachers, administrators, and other school personnel associated with each of New York State's over 4,000 public schools, which addresses issues of mutual concern that affect education and the welfare of children. ECB members encourage their constituencies to provide funding and regulations necessary for the improvement of education along with health and welfare issues for children.

New York State Board of Regents: Meetings are attended by a representative of NYS PTA. The actions and proposals of the Regents are reported to the membership and are available on our website. The PTA representative is frequently called upon to sit on special committees formed by the Board of Regents and/or the Commissioner of Education.

EPIC, Every Person Influences Children: A not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping families, schools and communities raise children to become responsible and capable adults by providing evidence-based programs for parents, a character education curriculum for families and schools, and training for schools and agencies.

New York State Family Engagement Coalition: Advocates for family engagement policies and practices to all levels of state government in NYS. Advises NYSED regarding family engagement policies and practices. Develops and maintains a statewide family engagement network of families, practitioners, researchers and policy makers, disseminating research and best practices.

New York State Department of Education Committee of Practitioners: Established, by law, as a means for the State Education Department staff to consult with the field regarding the implementation of NCLB regulations in New York State.

Professional Standards and Practices Board for Teaching: Members are appointed to four year terms and advise the Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Education on matters related to teaching in NYS.

Rural Schools Association: A statewide coalition to advocate for small and rural schools.

New York Healthy Eating and Physical Activity (NYSHEPA): Statewide alliance dedicated to improving policy and practices that promote healthy eating and physical activity. Our vision is to create a statewide environment where all children and adults are eating healthy food and participating in daily physical activity to promote lifelong wellness.

NEW YORK STATE PTA AWARDS

Advocate in Action Award: Designed to recognize members who take part in activities that advance our PTA Mission and Purposes.

Distinguished Service Award: Highest State award presented to PTA members who have made outstanding contributions to the welfare of children and youth or to the PTA organization.

Honorary Life Membership: Awarded to individuals giving outstanding service on behalf of children and youth.

Leadership Award in Honor of Jane Skrzypek: Established in 1991 to recognize outstanding PTA volunteerism.

Parents As Reading Partners Award: Recognizes outstanding PARP program at the region and state levels.

Jenkins Memorial Scholarship for Teacher Education: Available for graduating seniors pursuing a career in education.

Teacher Fellowship for Graduate Study in Memory of Richard Gazzola: To support continuing education of teachers.

Youth Humanitarian Award in Memory of Stanley Marcus: Recognizes a high school senior or junior who exemplifies humanitarianism.

OFFICE

One Wembley Court, Albany, New York 12205-3830
(518) 452-8808 ~ ~ Fax (518) 452-8105 ~ ~ Toll Free: 1-877-5NYSPTA(569-7782)
www.nyspta.org pta.office@nyspta.org