## 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.

### 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 13 region PTAs.

### CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES

**Legislative Summit:** 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 nyspta.org.

### PUBLICATIONS

**New York Parent Teacher:** Produced 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.

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

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

### CURRENT PROGRAMS

**Literacy/Pick A Reading Partner (PARP):** Initially created by Sen. James Donovan and now administered by NYS PTA, this program encourages literacy-based activities.

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

**Family Engagement:** Family Engagement is a school-family partnership that raises student achievement, improves school and community, and increases public support.

**Every Child Travels Safely:** This initiative will focus on transportation safety and see that children and caregivers increase safety in all aspects of child travel.

### FIELD SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

NYS 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

NYS 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’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. NYS PTA holds three seats on this board, with our current President serving as Vice Chair.

Every Person Influences Children (EPIC): 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.

NYS 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.

NYS Education Department 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.

NYS Education Department Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) Think Tank: A taskforce developed to recommend the state’s new ESSA plan for implementation in New York schools.

NYS Education Department Principal Preparation: NYS PTA sits on this taskforce, which is working to improve preparation for principals and find ways to increase support during their careers.

NYS Family Engagement Coalition: An organization whose mission is to support family engagement at all levels. NYS PTA is a founding member, and members of the management and steering committees.

NYS 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.

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. NYS PTA holds four seats on this committee.

Rural Schools Association: A statewide coalition to advocate for small and rural schools. NYS PTA sits on the Board of Directors and brings a unique perspective to discussions of how best to support students and families in rural areas and school.

TeachNY: A collaboration between the NYS Education Department and the State University of New York, NYS PTA sits on this board, which is currently working on supports for the teaching profession.

NYS PTA AWARDS

ADVOCACY, FAMILY ENGAGEMENT, LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AWARDS:
Advocate in Action Award
Community Service Award
Distinguished Service Award
Family Engagement Award in Honor of Jami-Beth Knapp
Golden Oak and Diamond Awards for Special Recognition
Honorary Life Membership
Leadership Award in Honor of Jane Skrzypek

PROGRAM AWARDS:
Pick A Reading Partner Award
Reflections Theme Search Award

STUDENT & TEACHER AWARDS:
Jenkins Memorial Scholarship for Teacher Education
Youth Humanitarian Award in Memory of Stanley Marcus
Teacher Fellowship for Graduate Study in Memory of Richard Gazzola

Note: For more award information, check nyspta.org/home/pta-leaders/awards-and.recognitions.

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