

FACT SHEET

MEMBERSHIP

Membership statewide is comprised of hundreds of thousands of parents, teachers, administrators, students and other child advocates in approximately 1,500 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

Dana Platin

Administration Theme:

Shining a Light on Every Child with One Voice



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 12 region PTAs

CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES

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, hundreds of members from across the state come together to share information, elect officers, adopt resolutions and attend workshops.

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.

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.

PTA Connection: Produced monthly, this publication is sent to all NYS PTA members and features advocacy items, programs and awards, critical information, and partner offers.

NYS PTA Resource Guide: A comprehensive resource of PTA information; available for all members under the Leaders tab 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, which now includes financial literacy support for children and families.

Arts and Reflections: Facilitated through the National PTA 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 focuses on transportation safety and encourages children and caregivers to increase safety in all aspects of child travel.

Every Child Healthy: This partnership with Fidelis Care promotes health and wellness for children and families.

Parent/Family Resources: Focuses on resources for all parents, families and educators, including support for all children and grade levels, college and career, CTE/STEM, diversity and inclusion, English Language Learners and their families, immigrant families, and LGBTQ families.

Supporting the Whole Child, A Focus on Mental Health: This initiative focuses on support for child mental health and social emotional learning.

FIELD SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

NYS PTA provides field service to local units statewide through region conferences, workshops, schools of instruction, publications and materials. Leadership Development initiatives feature webchats, leadership webinars, and other trainings and workshops for members and leaders across the state.

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.

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

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.

Reimagine Education Council: A gubernatorial council which develops policy for consideration by the Governor, SED and other state agencies.

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.

Note: For a full list of cooperating partners, please see here:
https://nyspta.org/home/advocacy/advocacy_tools/cooperating-partners/

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

Susanne Smoller Commitment to Advocacy Youth Award

PROGRAM AWARDS:

Pick A Reading Partner Award

Reflections Theme Search Award

STUDENT & TEACHER AWARDS:

Innovative Teacher Grant

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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