Frequently Asked Questions
Virtual Legislative Summit, February 27
and Virtual Lobby Meetings

Q: Will there be any training or guidance provided, especially to help prepare PTA members who have never attended a legislative advocacy event?

A: Yes - You have already registered for the NYS PTA Virtual Legislative Summit, Saturday, Feb 27.

Q: How should I prepare for Virtual Lobby meetings?

● Watch the pre-Summit videos
  ○ Summit Trailer
  ○ Preparing to Take Action
  ○ Let’s Get Ready: NYS PTA Legislative Summit 2021
  ○ Mental Health webinar: Supporting the Whole Child: A Focus on Mental Health

● Attend the NYS PTA Virtual Legislative Summit, February 27, 9:00am-12:00pm
  ○ Virtual Legislative Summit Program

● Review this year’s NYS PTA Issue Briefs
  ○ Support for Digital Equity and E-Learn Legislation
  ○ Say NO to Cuts to State Support for School Aid
  ○ Support Student Mental Health
  ○ Oppose the Legalization of Recreational Marijuana

● You can also read other NYS PTA memos and positions here

● Look for emails from NYS PTA with your group meeting information, additional resources, and reminders later in the week. Check your Spam or Junk email folders regularly to make sure you don’t miss any important communications.

● Prepare a quiet place that is well lit and absent of distractions. Wear business attire. Make sure your background doesn’t contain anything distracting, partisan/political, or personal that you may not want to share. Test out the video, audio, and internet capabilities of the device you will be using during the meetings ahead of time.

● Attend the NYS PTA Virtual Lobby Day Meetings that you have been assigned. Look for more information on appointments later in the week.
FAQs: Virtual Legislative Summit, February 27 and Virtual Lobby Meetings

Q: Do I need to schedule any meetings with my Senate/Assembly Members for the NYS PTA Virtual Lobby Day Meetings?
A: No - If you had indicated in your registration interest in participating in Virtual Lobby meetings, NYS PTA will schedule your meetings. Watch for emails from NYS PTA that will include your preliminary schedule. Please note that Lobby Day meeting appointments can change up until the last minute, so your schedule may not be finalized until the day of the scheduled meeting.

Q: Who will I be meeting with in the NYS PTA Virtual Lobby Day Meeting?
A: NYS PTA will match each attendee with their elected official(s). You will be placed in a group with an assigned group leader, who will facilitate the group’s speaking order. Please note that attendees will meet with the legislator or a designated staff member.

Q: How long will each NYS PTA Virtual Lobby Day Meeting last?
A: Group leaders will coordinate a brief 20-30-minute Zoom meeting immediately prior to the scheduled legislator meeting. You can expect the legislator meeting to last 15-30 minutes.

Q: What do I do during the NYS PTA Virtual Lobby Day meetings?
A: Your group leader will have assigned the order in which the issues and asks will be presented by some members of your group. During the meeting be an active listener, be prepared to share your story or speak to the issue as assigned, take notes, and be PTA flexible. Do not multitask, stay focused during the meeting.

Q: What platform will I need to join my Virtual Lobby Day Meetings?
A: All virtual Lobby Day meetings will be hosted through Zoom, unless otherwise specified.

Q: What do I do after my virtual legislator meeting?
A: If you were assigned as the note-taker for your group, please complete the Lobby Day Meetings Google form
Remember to send a thank you to the legislator
Complete the Summit/Lobby Day evaluation form

Finally, remember that the NYS PTA annual Lobby appointments are an opportunity to get our issues front and center for our elected officials, but it is also an opportunity for you to develop a relationship with your elected officials and their staff. During the meeting make sure to stay attentive, be respectful of the legislative staff and your fellow PTA advocates, and also have fun!