By Helen Hoffman, NYS PTA President

As the new year begins and the second half of the school year starts, I can’t help but think of all the wonderful things PTAs across our State have been doing to support kids. On behalf of NYS children and families, I want to personally thank each and every one of you for the time and energy you are putting into making a difference in our children’s lives. This is what PTA is all about.

My Presidential theme is “Supporting Kids, Raising Awareness.”

The NYS PTA team is working hard to raise awareness, especially regarding the mental health crisis our students are facing. Last summer, NYS PTA sent a Mental Health survey to our members to complete. The survey asked, “Which of these youth mental health issues do you feel are the most important?” Choices – Youth Violence, Anxiety, Depression, Bullying, Cyber-Bullying, Substance Use or Suicide/Suicidal Thoughts.

Alarmingly, but not surprisingly (multiple choices were allowed):
• Between 75 - 81% of our members said depression and anxiety were the most important issues facing our students
• 62% of our members said bullying was the top issue facing our children, and
• Sadly, 55% of our members said suicide/suicidal thoughts/ideation was the most important issue facing our students

We know so many of our students are suffering from anxiety and depression every day, and suicidal ideation continues to increase. Sadly, we also know there are many children living in situations where there may be limited family support for what they are going through.

This is personal for me, as I am sure it is for many of you. My young brother suicided at the age of 23, however, his struggles began at the age of 15. He never felt ‘normal,’ the same feeling so many of our students are feeling after the pandemic. The new ‘normal’ has made us more aware of the real struggles our kids are going through. I ask you, as PTA, what can we do?

Over the next couple of months, our NYS PTA team will expand our work on this issue. I have appointed a Mental Health Task Force, which will be chaired by our Immediate Past President Dana Platin. Dana and her team will look at this issue, and how we can support kids by raising awareness to this crisis. It will take a village, and I know you, our members, will be an important part of this conversation and solution.

I am also proud to announce that NYS PTA continues our commitment to Family Engagement. Last year, we created a new Family Engagement Task Force, to define what Family Engagement is and why Family Engagement is important? Here is what we came up with:

What is Family Engagement?

• Family Engagement creates and sustains collaborative, empowering, and equitable partnerships with families. This is achieved by using systemic outreach to encourage, assist, and enable participation in activities, programs, and services that affect children, families, and communities
• Family Engagement expands opportunities, knowledge, and skills through two-way meaningful communication within schools and
Why Family Engagement?

• Ensures families know they are active participants and feel welcomed, valued, and connected

• Affects positive change and encourages parents, guardians, and families to be brave

• Empowers families to advocate for themselves and for their communities

• Creates a common focus

• Promotes child development

• Improves student achievement

• Supports youth mental health

I am very proud of the work this committee accomplished, chaired by our Family Engagement Coordinator Lissa Zukoff. Lissa and her team know how important it is for NYS PTA to support families and to be engaged in their children’s schools and their communities. This committee’s work is not done, so I have appointed Lissa to continue this work by chairing a Family Engagement Special Committee to continue the important work the Task Force began. After several conversations with Lissa and her committee, I know their first task is to create a Family Engagement Tool Kit to give our members and their families the necessary material to be engaged. They are also looking to invite our members to quarterly events and many more exciting events to engage our members and their family.

In closing, I want to acknowledge the work of the entire Governance Team. Currently we are 208,000 PLUS members strong because of the work of everyone on our team, especially the Membership Team.

And because we are 208,000 PLUS members strong, our Advocacy Team can use the NYS PTA voice to advocate for Universal School Meals, Mental Health, and many more issues for our kids and our members.

And because we are 208,000 PLUS, we are providing leadership development opportunities through our monthly webinar series and training opportunities at our events.

And because we are 208,000 PLUS, our regions are working harder than ever to provide their units with the necessary tools and in-person events.

And because we are 208,000 PLUS, we are providing programs for all students – literacy opportunities through PARP programs and arts opportunities through Reflections.

And because we are 208,000 PLUS, we are honoring our members, students and educators with Awards for the work they have done over the years.

I am happy our members are coming back and supporting our association and its voice. BUT we need your help in spreading the word and increasing our membership even more. I strongly believe we can increase our voice in Albany and Washington D.C. by Supporting Kids, Raising Awareness. We are now living in the new normal and our voices needs to be louder for every child. Onevoice.
Our Children Understand. Why Can’t Policymakers?

By Kyle Belokopitsky, NYS PTA Executive Director

My son recently came home from school, with concern in his eyes. He asked me one thing, “Mom, are you still working on trying to get free lunch for my school?” I said yes, that it was our number one priority, and that I wouldn’t give up. He said thanks, and walked away, seemingly satisfied with my answer.

See, like many students across NYS, they understand that many of their classmates are hungry. Our kids understand that many of their classmates don’t have enough money to buy lunch. They understand that many of their classmates are too embarrassed to ask for help. And that breaks this advocate’s heart.

On September 7, 2022, when our NYS students went back to school, 726,000 children lost their access to free breakfast and lunch. 726,000 children.

No parent, no family, no educator, no one wants to see a child hungry. But that is what is happening. Our children are hungry, they are food insecure. For some, school is the only place they receive a warm or healthy meal. Congress has failed to act, so now New York State must.

Sadly, on February 1 when the Executive Budget was released, School Meals for ALL wasn’t included.

1 in 7 kids in New York experience hunger, disproportionately impacting Black, Hispanic/Latinx, and urban and rural children.

Hungry kids can’t learn. Students experiencing hunger struggle to focus, have lower attendance than their peers, and are at greater risk of mental and physical health problems.

A family of four making just $51,400 is over-income for free school meals. As a result, in NYS 470,000 children are ineligible for free school meals, but live in households earning less than a living wage.

Why school meals for all? When students perceive school meals as only for children from low-income households, many decline to participate, despite their hunger. Participation drops as students get older and more aware of the stigma. Stigma, literacy and language barriers, and administrative burdens keep many eligible families from submitting school meal applications, driving unpaid school meal debt—an estimated $24.9 million statewide.

We must provide breakfast & lunch at no cost for all students each school day, regardless of household income. Healthy School Meals for ALL:

• Levels the playing field for kids and families
• Reduces hunger - households with children attending community eligible schools are three times less likely to experience food insecurity
• Eliminates stigma and reduces bullying
• Provides families financial relief - receiving school breakfast and lunch at no cost saves families an estimated $140 per child in grocery spending each month
• Eliminates school meal debt, a significant burden for families and school district budgets

Can we count on you to help? If you haven’t taken email action yet, please email Governor Hochul and your State Senator and Member of Assembly. It’s an extremely easy form and takes 2 minutes – GO HERE.

That small action will make a huge difference for our children.

So, when Jackson comes home again from school this afternoon, and asks me if we are still fighting, I will absolutely say yes. And so are 210,000 NYS PTA members. Together – we are Supporting Kids, Raising Awareness, and supporting every child, with one voice.
PTA Insurance
Affordable insurance tailored for your PTA

New York State PTA Package:
- General Liability $2,000,000
- Directors & Officers Liability $1,000,000
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Optional coverages:
- **Property**
  Coverage for personal property owned by your PTA (raffle items, fundraising merchandise, popcorn machines…)

- **Extended Medical** (supplement to General Liability)
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Call us today!
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Statewide Membership Drive, February 10-17

FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION

WHAT IS FOUNDERS DAY?

On February 17, 1897, our founders, Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst, gathered for the Mothers Congress’ first meeting in Washington, DC, and saw the beginning of the largest (and now oldest) volunteer organization that works exclusively on behalf of children and youth.

In 1926, Selena Sloan Butler formed the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers (NCCPT). In 1970, the two organizations united to expand their reach and protect the needs of children and youth.

OUR SHARED LEGACY

126 years later, Founders Day is celebrated each year on February 17 to honor the founding leaders of National PTA and NYS PTA.

HOW TO CELEBRATE FOUNDERS DAY

- Acknowledge volunteers, educators, staff & community members who have supported the PTA and made a great impact in their school and community with an Advocate-in-Action Award, Distinguished Service Award, or a NYS PTA Honorary Life Membership Award
- Celebrate each anniversary of PTA with a Founders Day school or district-wide event
- Recognize supporters with a donation to the NYS PTA Annual Giving Fund for teacher & student grants and scholarships
- Challenge students to research PTA and create a school display or mural. Begin your school’s PTA hall (or wall) of fame
- Share on social media pictures, facts, and memorabilia describing PTA’s 126-year history and PTA’s achievements
- Observe the inclusiveness of PTA’s founding by organizing a culture festival celebrating your community’s various ethnic and cultural groups

126 YEARS STRONG!

Together we continue to work for a common purpose: to secure adequate laws, regulations and policies for the care and protection of children and youth.

Advocacy is at the heart of PTA’s mission and vision. Growing PTA membership strengthens PTA’s voice, bringing attention to critical issues that affect the education, health and welfare of children and youth.
Firefox works for families

Private, secure and backed by a non-profit. Get the only browser that works to make the internet better for everyone – especially families.
There is no question that mental health education is a priority in our schools and for our unit, region, and NYS PTA leaders. We can’t even begin to effectively advocate for changes to curriculum and assessment for our students and teachers until we address their mental health needs. NYS PTA continues to remain committed to mental health advocacy, and fully supportive of the mental and social emotional health of our students and youth.

Recently, the Region Education Chat (REC) group, consisting of Region Education Chairs, Region Directors, and other Region representatives, started meeting to discuss issues affecting our classrooms around New York State. It quickly became clear within the first minutes of discussion that as PTA leaders, we wanted to know which mental health issues were the most prevalent within our communities, as well as whether our unit leaders had access to resources necessary to assist in having conversations at home.

Throughout the month of August 2022, members from across New York State were given the opportunity to answer our NYS PTA Mental Health Survey. 929 responses were received from our membership, and the responses were not surprising to see. Please view the results below.

A number of members of our NYS PTA Governance Team helped in “fine tuning” this survey for our membership. Special thanks go out to NYS PTA President Helen Hoffman, Executive Director Kyle Belokopitsky, and Resolutions Coordinator Susan Fisher for their keen eyes and expertise in the development of this survey.

Do you have conversations with your child about mental health?

- Yes: 90.5%
- No: 9.5%

Do you need help having these conversations about mental health with your child?

- Yes: 44.3%
- No: 55.7%
Which of these youth mental health issues do you feel are most important?

- Bullying
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Suicidal thoughts

What kind of information or resources would you find helpful when having a conversation about mental health with your child(ren)?

- Books
- Videos
- Webinars
- Articles

What is the school-age level of the child(ren) you live or work with?

- Elementary School (Pre-K - 5th Grade): 534 (57.6%)
- Middle School (6th - 8th Grade): 351 (37.9%)
- High School (9th - 12th Grade): 398 (42.9%)
- Student who will still be in school in a few years: 24 (2.6%)

What Mental Health resources have you accessed through your school district?

- Workshops
- Lunchtime resources
- Books
- Webinars

What does Youth Mental Health mean to you?

- Happy
- Skills
- Mental
- Mental
- Important
- Health
- Coping
- Life

Are there additional concerns related to youth mental health that you would like to see addressed by the PTA?

- Bullying
- Depression
- Anxiety

What is the race and/or ethnicity of your child(ren)? You may indicate more than one.

- Black or African American: 128 (13.8%)
- Caribbean/West Indian: 42 (4.5%)
- White: 685 (73.9%)
- Hispanic/Latino: 179 (19.3%)
- American Indian: 13 (1.4%)
- Alaska Native: 4 (0.4%)
- East Asian: 52 (5.6%)
- South Asian: 36 (3.9%)
- Southeast Asian: 31 (3.3%)
- Native Hawaiian: 3 (0.3%)
- Pacific Islander: 9 (1%)
- Multiracial: 79 (8.5%)
- Prefer not to answer: 64 (6.9%)
**Convention Wrap-up**

*By Laurie May, 2023 Convention Coordinator*

What a great feeling it was to pull up in front of the Crowne Plaza-Desmond Hotel in Albany that first weekend in November. The anticipation of our first fully in-person convention in two years was truly special. Walking into the lobby and immediately seeing familiar faces and old friends after virtual meetings and conference calls was just plain joyful! To experience the hustle and bustle of registration, vendors setting up their booths, shopping the PTA store, people greeting each other with hugs and fist pumps, the buzz of excitement as we came together to do the incredible work of NYS PTA was palpable!

Convention 2022 was by all accounts, a huge success thanks to incredible teamwork, dedication, a passion for PTA, staunch child advocates, cooperation, collaboration and most importantly, your attendance. A jam-packed weekend with almost 200 voting delegates, 33 exhibitors, debating resolutions, listening to engaging speakers including NYSED Commissioner Dr. Betty Rosa, NYS Sen. Shelley Mayer, Jacy Good and her husband Steve, who shared their incredible life story with a moving and thought-provoking presentation called Hang Up and Drive, Teacher of the Year, Carly Santangelo, NYSED Deputy Commissioner Angelique Johnson-Dingle (DEI speaker), attending amazing workshops, meeting and mingling with other region attendees on Friday night, celebrating award winners, heralding in newly elected President, Helen Hoffman, 1st VP Amany Messieha Dgheim, VP Joan Wabnik, and Secretary Melissa Cancro and watching as they were installed at our banquet. Wishing now Past President, Dana Platin, all the best and thanking her for two incredible years of service to our association, dancing to a great DJ until they pulled the plug, and being engaged at our fireside chat that included panelists Kim Lipsky from TikTok, National PTA representative Carrie Neill and President Dana Platin, moderated by our Executive Director, Kyle Belokopitsky. We also had our first NYS Pride PTSA in-person dinner/meeting and our annual Empire PTSA breakfast/meeting. We couldn’t have packed any more into the weekend if we had wanted to!

We are so PTA proud to have shared a wonderful weekend with our members from across the state, advocating together, learning together, raising our voices together, celebrating together. We truly hope that if you attended you left better informed, with a stronger voice, a renewed commitment, a greater sense of purpose, and the confidence to be an outstanding leader in your community. There is nothing like the NYS PTA Convention, it is an event you should not miss!

But we can’t rest on our laurels! Planning is underway for our 127th annual convention returning to the charming Desmond Hotel again on November 10-12, 2023. It was thrilling to see so many first-time attendees at our 126th convention, if you have never been, please consider attending in November. It will provide you with a unique perspective and insight of how truly important the work of PTA is. You will meet incredible people, make lasting friendships, feel empowered to create change, and who knows, maybe one day, be our NYS PTA president. Convention may be just the spark you need to ignite your leadership flame!

Much more information will be coming your way in the coming months so be on the lookout! In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments, please reach out to me at conventioncoordinator@nyspta.org any time. I would love to hear from you!

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Convention Highlights
“Supporting Kids, Raising Awareness” Year-Round

By Patrice Rachlin, Legislation Coordinator (2019-2022 Resolutions Coordinator)

Supporting Kids, Raising Awareness, and making every child’s potential a reality is NYS PTA’s vision. Each year at Convention we reaffirm our commitment to advocacy and do the work of the organization.

A few months ago, NYS PTA hosted the 126th Annual Convention, in Albany. This in-person event was a wonderful opportunity for PTA members to celebrate, advocate, and collaborate with delegates from across the state. We discussed important topics, attended workshops/training, elected NYS PTA officers, and adopted the 2022 Resolutions: 5 retentions, 13 updates, and 2 rescissions.

But Convention is just the stepping-off point. You can utilize all NYS PTA Resolutions & Position Statements to advocate in your school district, local government, state senate and assembly, and federally! PTA advocates are people like you, and me, who are “Supporting Kids, Raising Awareness”.

Remember that relationships matter! Personal meetings, letters, emails, phone calls, and social media are tools that help you interact with legislators, stakeholders, and the education community. Remember to always be respectful and to always do your research. Familiarize yourself with advocacy campaigns, position statements/papers, and resolutions on local, state, and federal levels. Our advocacy is year-round. Raise your voice!

Who do you direct your advocacy efforts to?

Federal: US Department of Education and Find your federal representative.

State: State Senate, State Assembly, New York State Regents, and Commissioner Betty Rosa.

Local: Your home school district, community, local/regional school board associations, New York State School Boards Association, local/regional superintendent associations, New York State Council of School Superintendents, and all stakeholders.

Resources for advocacy:

NYS PTA Where We Stand, NYS PTA Legislative Priorities, and National PTA Positions & Resolutions.
March 14 - April 3, 2023

THE MAIN EVENT

PRE-GAME TOURNAMENT
March 6 - 11, 2023

THE MAIN EVENT
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The meeting had been advertised for days. School announcements, posts on social media, even the electric sign on the school lawn lit up with the words, “PTA Meeting Tonight.” The evening arrives. There’s so much planning to do. A new school year begins. We’re back, in person. There’s so much to do for the students, and for the teachers and staff. But the same faces arrive. Maybe one or two are new to the district. It’s an all-too-common scene. How do we get our parents to volunteer? We need to think of our school events as much as recruitment tools as for our students. PTA is no longer simply the refreshment table at the end of the holiday concert, but we are a holiday shopping experience. We are no longer the greeters and program distributors, we are the organizers of many school programs from discussion panels to after-school enrichment activities. We need to demonstrate what PTA does in our schools, and by giving that introduction to interested parents we encourage their future participation.

PTA officers and board members should do everything possible to make all feel welcomed at meetings and events. Begin and end each year with surveys to allow parents/members to have input into the business and activities of your PTA. Create committees so members learn to work together and not feel burdened when they are the only one chairing an event year after year. You should include funds in your PTA budget to encourage your members to attend Region and State training and events. Strong leadership development is built upon inclusive, ongoing volunteer development: each unit committing to provide education and training opportunities to all members and volunteers so that they are ready to step up as PTA advocates and leaders. The most valuable PTA resource is membership, and teaching members about child development, parenting skills, education issues, PTA advocacy, and managing an organization has been a core activity since PTA’s founding. Today we still need to empower members with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to advocate successfully for children and youth. When we help PTA members fulfill their potential, we also further our mission to make every child’s
Having prepared members to become leaders, the next step is to create a clear pathway and equitable opportunities for volunteering and being elected to leadership roles. Units should publicize all board, officer, and committee positions to be filled, including job descriptions and requirements. By using a letter of interest (LOI) or other form, newer members can nominate themselves or others (see the LOI posted at nyspta.org as a sample). All materials should be accessible via multiple locations, languages, and accommodations, as needed. The point is to be transparent, proactive and inclusive as you search for new leadership.

PTA’s nomination/election process is a key part of the pathway to leadership. Requirements for the formation and election of a nominating committee are found in your unit bylaws. Nominating committees must be elected at least two months before officer elections take place, but there are advantages to electing them earlier in the year. That allows the committee members to get to know as many potential candidates as possible and to observe individual volunteers in action throughout the year, noting their strengths and which PTA positions might be the best fit at present or in the future.

PTA leadership should be attainable, sustainable, and rewarding. It’s the job of each PTA to provide a broad path, filling the gaps, removing the obstacles and smoothing the rough spots, and making the pathway as clear and welcoming as possible. It can be easy for leaders to pick personal friends or colleagues or have a small number of people simply “rotate positions” every year. These may provide short-term answers but they do not provide long-term success for the unit or organization. PTA Boards should strive to reflect the community demographics and diversity of the families in that school or district. If your unit is looking for ways to broaden your leadership base, we encourage you to reach out to your Region Director for ideas.

So what happens when your child matriculates out of the building that you’ve been a unit officer for? What happens when your last child graduates from high school? There are still opportunities for you to lead in PTA! Being a member of your Region Board allows you to continue to learn new leadership skills while also providing valuable insight and advice to units in your area. There are a wide variety of region board member roles such as Assistant Directors and Associate Directors (that provide general advice to a small or large number of units or councils), Reflections, PARP and other program/event chair positions that coordinate those programs on a regional level, as well as officer roles such as Region Secretary or Region Treasurer. Serving on a region board provides an opportunity to see the wider perspective of PTA and can be a powerful way to continue to support the work of our association. After serving on the region level, there are ample opportunities to serve at the NYS PTA level and beyond as well.

Leadership is a journey that never ends. Offering the opportunity to lead is a gift that should be shared widely and freely. Often when people are asked why they are involved it’s because of a personal invitation from someone. As we enter into this new year of 2023, let’s commit to reaching out and inviting someone new to get involved.

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**FINANCIAL AID NOW**

The difference between going to a great college or not often depends on the amount of financial aid a student is offered.

Financial Aid Now empowers parents with the same tools professionals use to help get every penny in free money aid as possible. Tools such as FAFSAassist, Merit Max, Award Evaluator, Negotiation and loan strategies. Parents are welcome to join the Office Hours FAN Club and are free to ask anything and get their most pressing questions answered. Find out if Financial Aid Now can benefit your family.

FinancialAidNow.com
IT’S A FAMILY AFFAIR!

Engaging the entire family to become PTA members

By Mary Sotomayor, Membership Coordinator

Family engagement is important to ensure that families are connected and involved in their children’s education. It is proven to make a world of a difference in a child’s education and support of their physical and emotional wellbeing. Bring your whole family closer as a unit. Promote PTA’s value and positive influence on your child’s education and their school as a whole. Without PTA, who would represent the voice of children and families? Who would run the book fair, author visit, fall festival, spring fling, teacher/staff appreciation event, and the list goes on? Get your Family PTA Plus+ Membership Card and make sure every family member who can join your PTA, does. This card will help you track how many additional family/friend memberships you have signed-up or gifted.

Your family are your child’s biggest cheerleaders. Encourage them to be involved and participate in family engagement opportunities at PTA events throughout the year. Your PTA unit can decide ways to roll out this program. We recommend a member-recruitment task each month to continue growing your school’s PTA membership.

Your PTA can even customize the PTA Plus+ Membership Card with your Unit’s logo and QR code to help everyone join!

What’s ahead for 2023?

We are more committed than ever to growing the value of membership and helping your unit achieve its highest membership year yet. As we celebrate our founders in February, our students who rock membership in March and our PTA unit All-stars who have earned 5 or more awards throughout this school year, there are lots of prizes and recognitions still to win. We encourage you to continue using the NYS PTA website as a resource and our tools to grow your membership. Our PTA family is made up of extraordinary people who are supporting the next generation. You’re part of an incredible 126-year PTA legacy, a network of members and advocates for children and families. We are One PTA and together we can create a world in which every single child feels truly seen and valued.
Learning to read is the most important activity in a child’s education. Children who read at home are better prepared to succeed in formal education. PARP is a program that asks a partner (parent, grandparent, babysitter, older sibling, cousin, friend, etc.) to read with a child for at least 20 minutes daily. This reinforces the necessary bond between the home and the school to encourage love of reading in our children.

PARP programs vary in length, there is no annual or required theme, and can run at little to no cost. It is up to you and the committee to decide on the length of the program, the theme, how elaborate your school will decorate for the program and all the other details.

PARP Toolkit

Would you like to start a PARP program in your school, but don’t know where to begin? New York State PTA has a great PARP toolkit for you to use. The toolkit has everything you need to know about creating a new program or enhancing an existing program. The toolkit is broken down into five sections: Section 1- PARP Program, Section 2- Programs and Activities, Section 3- Sample Forms and Sample Activities, Section 4 Award- Winning PARP Program Applications, and Section 5- Resources. The toolkit makes it easy to find ideas that you can use in your PARP program. There are many samples that can be used and easily edited to your school’s name, logo, dates, etc. This toolkit is a resource for all units, whether you have a small program or a large elaborate program. If you currently do not have a PARP program but are interested in starting one, feel free to look through the toolkit to get ideas to share with others in your district who may want to be involved.

PARP Award

Once you have completed your program and celebrated all your hard work, you can apply for the PARP award. The primary objective of this award is to encourage reading and other literacy-based activities in the home through recognition of PARP programs by highlighting PARP programs; sharing outstanding PARP ideas with other PTAs/schools/libraries/communities and other parent groups; contributing to the understanding of the importance of reading and other literacy activities in the family setting and in the community.

The PARP award application is available on the website, so once your program is complete, please be sure to complete the application for your chance to win at the Region and/or State level. One region winner will receive a $100 check to be used towards their school’s reading program, and one state winner will receive a $250 check to be used towards their reading program. Additionally, the award-winning application will be added to the PARP Toolkit. Applications must be submitted to your Region Director by May 15th, 2023. Please reach out to programs@nyspta.org or literacy@nyspta.org with any questions. Good luck and happy reading!
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2023 NYS PTA Award Applications

DEADLINE: February, 15 2023
NYS PTA’s Innovative Teacher Grant gives PK-12 teachers the opportunity to put their ideas into action. It is awarded to worthy projects that significantly influence student learning. Click Here for more information and application.

DEADLINE: March 15, 2023
This award will be given to a Unit, Council or Region that demonstrates a leadership commitment to diversity and inclusion through recruitment, training and retention efforts including, but not limited to, multicultural, gender-diverse and special needs appropriate programming/events, inclusive outreach activities, and/or other initiatives. Click Here for more information and application.

DEADLINE: May 15, 2023
Family engagement in education is a critical strategy for ensuring students’ academic achievement, graduation from high school and overall success in life. Click Here for more information and application.

DEADLINE: June 15, 2023
This NYS PTA award was established in 1991 to honor the memory of Jane Skrzypek. The purpose of this award is to recognize an outstanding leader in your PTA who, by his or her actions, inspires others to volunteer and assume leadership positions. Click Here for more information and application.
Open to all students in K-8 and Special Artists with a PTA (affiliated with NYS PTA) in their school building.

New York State PTA in conjunction with GTSC is teaming up for a contest to call attention to the dangers of distracted walking.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
- Nearly 6,000 pedestrians are killed in traffic crashes every year. Many are children distracted by mobile devices.
- Tens of thousands of pedestrians are injured.

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First Prize: $100 Barnes and Noble Gift Card plus a $50 Barnes and Noble Gift card for the student’s PTA unit!

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*for students with disabilities who receive services under IDEA or ADA

**DEADLINE DATE:**
Please submit your poster to the google form by February 17, 2023

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