The Tennessee PTA Advocacy award recognizes local units, councils, and youth that best demonstrate outstanding achievement in advocacy.

PTA advocates for children and their families on a wide variety of child-related issues in the areas of public education, health, safety and parent involvement. The purpose of advocacy is to communicate to decision makers to inform, educate, persuade or increase the level of awareness about an issue. Decision makers include elected and appointed officials, legislative bodies and school boards, as well as anyone who is a stakeholder in the welfare of children and youth.

Studies have shown that schools where parents are involved in decision-making and advocacy have higher levels of student achievement and greater public support.

National Standards for Family-School Partnerships, Standard 4: Speaking up for every child – Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

**Award Criteria**

- Application forms must be complete and received in the Tennessee PTA office no later than March 1st.
- Any submitting local or council PTA must in good standing as defined by TNPTA bylaws.
- Youth nominees must be in grades 9-12 and attend a PTA school or have a parent who is a PTA member in any Tennessee PTA unit.
- A descriptive narrative with a limit of 500 words must be included which describes the following:
  - For a PTA unit or Council
    - Advocacy is the act or process of supporting a cause of a proposal. Describe the advocacy efforts at your school or in your community.
    - What advocacy training do you encourage or provide for your PTA membership?
    - How does your membership communicate with their legislators?
    - Has your PTA written a position statement or resolution this year? If so, please include a copy.
  - For a Youth
    - How has this individual advocated for your school or community?
    - Describe the impact of your nominee on decision makers.

**Winners will:**
Receive recognition at the annual Tennessee PTA convention and their name will be included in the convention program.
ADVOCACY AWARD
Information and Application

Award Category
(Non-school based PTAs should choose the category that most closely reflects their focus.)

PTA/PTSA
☐ Elementary  ☐ Middle and High School  ☐ Council/Community

Individual  ☐ Youth

Name of PTA/Council ____________________________________________________________

Name of Youth (if applicable) ____________________________________________________

Grade ___________  Unit of PTA Membership ________________________________

Name of PTA President _______________________________________________________

Name of Person Submitting Application __________________________________________

Address _________________________________________________________________

Email _________________________________________________________________

Phone Number ___________________________________________________________

This application plus the descriptive narrative must be received in the Tennessee PTA Office no later than March 1\textsuperscript{st}.

Tennessee PTA
1905 Acklen Ave
Nashville, TN 37212

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Received Date ____________________________  ☐ Narrative Included

Good Standing Status
Number of Members Submitted as of March 1 ________________________________

Date of Bylaws Approval ________________________________

☐ 990 Submitted

☐ Audit Submitted