

New Year with New Possibilities - Tennessee PTA 2017-2019 BOM

The 2017-2019 Tennessee Board of Managers begins their term with a mission to CARE - Connect, Advocate, Recruit and engage Everyone.

It is an endeavor that President, Cheryl Floyd, shared in her first President's Corner post on the Tennessee PTA website (tnpta.org), and is one which the Tennessee PTA Board of Managers will work together to fulfill.

The state representative group determined to carry on the mission is: President - Cheryl Floyd, President-elect - Kim Henderson, Vice President Child & Youth Advocacy - Dwight Hunter, Vice President Communications & Student Programs - Lida Whitaker-Sheppard, Vice President Membership & Outreach - Dana Price, Secretary - Anita Smith, Treasurer - Timothy Duke, Parliamentarian - Catrina Jefferson, Past President - Gail Phillips

Division of Child & Youth Advocacy: Early Childhood Education & Family Development - Tara Voit, Family & Community Engagement - Barry Myers, State & Federal Legislative - Debbie Boles, Resolutions - Charles Everett, Education - Dwight Hunter

Division of Communications & Student Programs: Arts in Education & Scholarship - Larry Davis, Reflections - Rebecca Priddy, Marketing & Communications - Alicia Hill, Resource Development - Hank Winkler, Student Awards Lida Whitaker-Sheppard

Division of Membership and Outreach: Bylaws & Standing Rules - LaShelle Stigger, Diversity & Cultural Inclusion - Wayne Brown, Membership - Nancy Loggins, State Extension - Dana Price, Mid Cumberland Region Director - LeTicia Taylor, Southeast Region Director - Yashika Ward, Memphis-Delta Region Director - Barbara Hawkins, First Tennessee Region Director - Theresa Shaw



Tennessee PTA 2017-2019 Board of Managers

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Message from the President

Now more than ever we need to stay the course, advocating for all children. The climate is that education is on the chopping block. A fair and equitable education is achievable, however with barriers, such as adequate funding, accountability in the classroom, and deciphering the code of academic achievement, mandates a call for action. It is time to rally the village.

Your voice is power, but it must be heard. Tennessee PTA advocacy efforts is in the collection of those voices to amplify the message that our children are our greatest resources. Our membership join in forces to work collaboratively to effect a positive and productive environment in the schools, in legislature and the community whereby all children have the potential to succeed.

That is why I am PTA. *Cheryl Floyd*

What's New

- New Bulletin format
- One membership report form
- Upcoming Webinars
- Tax Revocation Reinstatement Assistance
- Upcoming Regional Forums, in lieu of Winter Conference

Upon the subject of education... I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in.
- Abraham Lincoln

Tennessee PTA C.A.R.E.s (Connect.Advocate.Recruit.Everyone!)

Connect

- Facebook/Social Media
- Region Directors should have their own Facebook page, by Region, and Region email
- Hashtag: #tnptacares
- Update incoming officer info
- Organizational connections
- Marketing

Advocate

- Legislative days
- Action alerts
- Resolutions
- Position statements
- Legislative priorities
- School Board/Grass root
- Health and Safety
- Free Appropriate Public Education (F.A.P.E.)

Recruit

- Outreach
- Visibility
- Resources
- Historical Value/Legacy of PTA – Our Value
- Training Opportunities
- Community PTAs
- Recognize/Celebrate our successes

Everyone

- Community Partnerships
- Diversity and Cultural Inclusion
- Students/Educators/Parents
- All PTAs (Local Unit, Council, Community)

Contact Us

For more information , assistance, questions and support, contact us, we are here for you.

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Visit us on the web at
www.tnpta.com

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tenneseeta.tumblr.com

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[@tennessepta](https://twitter.com/tennessepta)

LET YOUR VOICES BE HEARD—TAKE ACTION

Sign up for Tennessee PTA's Take Action – Advocate Network to learn more about legislative issues affecting families, schools, and communities and to stay informed on the latest updates from Nashville.

By registering for Tennessee PTA's Take Action - Advocate Network, you will be joining other PTA advocates in Tennessee to support and speak up for children and youth. Sign up today!

Sign-up here -- www.tnpta.org/action-page.html

Go to “quick sign up” and enter your email address and your zip code. On the next page, enter your information and check “I want to receive future email alerts” and click save.

PTA is the oldest and largest child advocacy association in America. Today's PTA is comprised of millions of parents, teachers, grandparents, caregivers, foster parents and other caring adults who share a commitment to improving the education, health, and safety of all children.

We speak with one voice for every child.

Today, the issues affecting our children and youth extend beyond their individual schools. The PTA's nation-wide network provides parents and other volunteers with the forum and tools to collectively influence the decisions that affect children and youth not only at their schools, but also throughout their districts, within their states, and across the nation. This mission is unique to the PTA.

What Can You Do as a PTA Advocate to STOP Cuts to Classrooms

1. Take Action: Sign the petition requesting that more than 2% of the federal budget be reserved for public education

2. Join the Conversation: Join other education advocates in Funding Fridays on Twitter, Facebook and other social media platforms to raise awareness that 2% of federal funding for public education is inadequate (Social Media Toolkit)

3. Spread the Word: Use the #STOPCutsToClassrooms campaign toolkit in your newsletters, on social media and during meetings with elected officials to amplify our message (Campaign Toolkit)

SPOTLIGHT CORNER

TENNESSEE PTA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE Award recipients—Congratulations to

Allen Elementary School -Soddy Daisy

Loftis Middle School -Hixson,

National PTA School of Excellence is a recognition program that supports and celebrates partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students

Schools that exhibit improvement are honored as National PTA Schools of Excellence, a distinction that spans two years. Honorees receive celebration tools well as automatic consideration for the Phoebe Apperson Hearst award of \$2000 for their schools. After two years, schools are able and encouraged to renew their designation.



Coming Soon

- Regional Town Halls
- Upcoming Webinars
- eLearning Challenges

Tennessee PTA wants to hear from YOU!!

Tennessee PTA wants to help spread the word about the amazing things that you're PTA is doing! If you have an event, program, or community project you would like to share in our newsletter,

Contact Alicia Hill, Tennessee PTA Communications and Marketing at ahill@tnpta.org

Please note: Due to constraints of newsletter size, some submissions may not be published.





6 Keys to Engaging Families in ESSA

Parents and their children are the consumers of our nation's public education system, and parents have always been essential partners in education. However, they haven't always been included at the decision-making table. This has caused confusion, mistrust and backlash when new initiatives—whether at the federal, state or local level—have been considered and implemented. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides a unique opportunity for parents and families to give their input and to hold states and districts accountable for their children's educational experience.

National PTA has identified six critical ways states, school districts and schools should be engaging parents and families as part of ESSA or any new education initiative. Use the rubric on the back to evaluate how your state, school district and school are doing!



Representation

Any education committee, working group or taskforce must include parents who solely represent the parent voice. While other members may also be parents, a parent representative's sole responsibility is to be an advocate for parents and families. This is the only way to ensure committees or working groups are reflective of those who will be most impacted by changes in education policy or practice—students and parents.

The **Oregon Department of Education** includes four parent representatives on ESSA [working groups](#) and the [advisory committee](#) for the development of their new state education plan.



Transparency

States, school districts and schools should provide clear timelines for the development of new education plans or initiatives, identify specific opportunities for parents and families to be involved, and publicly post and distribute this information in a variety of ways. Communications about the ESSA implementation process should include who's involved, specific opportunities for families and community members to participate, and how input and feedback will be incorporated.

The **Michigan Department of Education's ESSA webpage** has a user-friendly hub for parents and community members to access information about and get involved in the implementation process, including virtual parent focus groups.



Equity

The needs and abilities of parents and families are not all the same. States, districts and schools must ensure any barrier to engagement—such as time, location, language or disability—is addressed. This means that opportunities for engagement must be held at various dates, times and locations, and materials must be translated into at least one language other than English. Locations and materials must also be accessible for family members with disabilities. Decision makers must also host events at family-friendly locations—for example, a government building may not be centrally located or the most welcoming for all parents and families.

The **Delaware Department of Education** provides ESSA resources in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [Haitian Creole](#) to meet the needs of different communities in the state.



Information

Most parents are not experts in education policy, but they are experts on their children. It is important that information about the law is explained in simple terms. At the most basic level, parents want to know how ESSA affects their child, their education and school, and what they can do. It is important to provide families with greater context about how new plans or programs will impact current practices. Materials should be no longer than three written pages, and other mediums should be used to provide clear and concise information to parents and families.

The **Hawaii Department of Education** provides a [video overview of ESSA](#), a helpful [FAQ](#) and an [easy-to-understand fact sheet](#) to explain the new law.



Accessibility

States, districts and schools should provide multiple opportunities and avenues to get parent and family perspectives, including online surveys, webinars and other multi-media presentations and in-person events. When considering in-person events, education leaders should go where parents are, instead of making parents come to them. In addition, stakeholders should look for ways to partner together to bring a diverse set of advocates to the decision-making table. Providing several opportunities for parents and families to share their insight will ensure new policies and programs reflect the needs of all students.

While developing the new state education plan, the **New Jersey Department of Education** conducted online surveys, formed a stakeholder focus group and hosted in-person meetings, listening and learning sessions and webinars.

New Mexico PTA partnered with [Learning Alliance of New Mexico](#) to conduct ESSA feedback forums around the state so parents could share their views and guide future plans for public education.



Feedback

Systems and structures need to be put in place for parents to provide regular and ongoing input and feedback, and decision makers need to listen when parents share their thoughts. If families are included throughout all stages of the ESSA implementation process, they will understand how it relates not only to their child, but to every child in the community, the state—and across the country. ESSA is just the starting point for education leaders to engage parents and other stakeholders on education issues.

The **Arkansas Department of Education's** ESSA steering committee, that includes parent representation, will continue to meet to monitor and adjust the state ESSA plan to make sure it meets the needs of students and families.

In **Connecticut**, the Superintendent established the [Commissioner's Roundtable for Family and Community Engagement in Education](#), a group of parents, educators, students and community members who will serve as advisors on matters of education, including ESSA.

The POWER of PTA

The **POWER** of PTA is in its **membership**. Every additional member adds power when your PTA goes before a school board, city council, or speaks to members. Your PTA membership adds volumes in your voice when you contact state and federal legislators. With the strength of our members, PTA can and does improve education, health and safety for every child.

PTA gives you **POWER!** As a local unit you are an extension of the power source that is Tennessee PTA. We offer you the tools and resources you need to become empowered and engaged within your local units. We provide PTA leaders training, workshops, materials and publications. We provide support - local PTAs are never alone! We can be contacted at any time.

Support advocacy.....many people hear this term but don't see it in action. Members should know national, state and regional PTA leaders are working with state and federal legislatures continuously to pass bills that are in the best interest of all students and public education. When important issues involving children and youth are raised, PTA is there. You are a vital part of this powerful voice!

I want to encourage all of you to ask Tennessee Board members to join your local unit PTA. Please send me a membership form and I will pass it around!!

Be the SPARK in your PTA! Make a new friend today, ask them to join PTA!

Nancy Loggins, Tennessee PTA Membership Chair nloggins@tnpta.org

Efficiency is the Key

Tennessee PTA is working to be more efficient in our service to you. We have combined all membership reporting forms into one that can be used for all of your submissions. The new form can be found on the Tennessee PTA website at the following URL:

<http://tnpta.org/membership/2017membershipreport.pdf>

Reporting dates to remember:

October 15th - Early Bird Award
December 1st - Annual (REQUIRED)
March 1st - Award Qualification
May 1st - Final

Are you ready for Student Programs? We are!

All guidance and forms may be found on the Tennessee PTA website:

<http://www.tnpta.org/student-programs1.html>



Reflections

Theme: "Within Reach"

Entries due to the State Office: **January 19, 2018**

Contact **Rebecca Priddy** for more information. rpriddy@tnpta.org



Themes for 2017-2018

Citizenship

"The Most Important Thing About America"

Safety Poster

"Safety Can Be Fun"

Safety Multi-Media

"Look To The Signs"



Entries due to the State Office: **February 16, 2018**

Contact **Larry Davis** for more information. ldavis@tnpta.org or go to <http://www.tnpta.org/citizenship--safety-programs.html>

Tennessee PTA - Advocating Everyday, in Everyway, for Every Child

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