Tennessee PTA Legislative Priorities 2022-2023

Parent Engagement and School Opportunities are Integral to the Success of Students

- Families should have the freedom to choose the best public education learning environment for their students without penalties or prejudice to them or their school.
- Public funds or tax dollars should not be diverted to private and parochial schools through vouchers, ESAs, or similar efforts.
- All schools receiving public funds should be held accountable to the same standards and requirements.
- Local school districts, as opposed to appointed state boards, are best suited to make decisions in regard to schools within their locality and in the establishment and approval of schools and these decisions should be left to those who were elected to do so in each municipality.
- Families should be included throughout policy and legislation discussions.
- Families should be encouraged to share their ideas and concerns and be recognized as meaningful partners in finding safe and equitable education solutions.

All students should have a Safe, Supportive, and Inclusive environment that promotes mental and physical wellbeing must be ensured.

- All students and educators have a right to attend schools that are safe and conducive to learning and achievement.
- Adequate funding should be provided for school building improvements to ensure safe, well maintained, and secure buildings.
- Education systems should identify and eliminate practices and policies which are systemically racist, support biases or inequity.
- Schools should use positive behavioral interventions and supports that are effective, fair, and consistently implemented. Such practices may include restorative justice and trauma-informed care.
- Investments should provide the necessary physical and psychological student supports and services, appropriate resources for health and wellness services, and increased qualified, school-based health and wellness practitioners.
- Policies and programs that address the prevention, intervention, and elimination of bullying should be consistently implemented.
- Measures should be adopted that ensure our children are protected from gun violence and support efforts to ensure that children are not experiencing Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs) as a result of gun violence in their communities.

All students should have access to Quality Education

- All students deserve access to quality educational materials that are self-reflective and create a deeper understanding of materials through self-recognition and representation.
- Focus should be placed on understanding achievement and opportunity gaps within schools and work to implement policies to close the achievement and opportunity gaps for students.
- Post-Secondary Pathways should meet the interests and workforce needs within communities in order to ensure that all students have the ability to succeed.