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 completed and received by the Tennessee PTA no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 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 in addition 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 during the annual Tennessee PTA meeting.
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 by the Tennessee PTA no later than March 1st.

Tennessee PTA
P.O. Box 1536
Hixson, TN 37343

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