



LEGISLATION CONFERENCE 2020 – INFORM & INSPIRE

Whether you are new to PTA or a seasoned leader, come join us and learn more about how to be an effective voice for all children.

The Legislation Conference is your chance to meet and network with other advocates from across the state interested in learning more about key issues that affect children, youth and families. Spend two days participate in learning activities and hearing from legislative leaders and experts on issues you care about. The two days culminate with an opportunity to advocate directly with your state legislators.

Be a part of the statewide effort to advocate for the education, health, safety and well-being of all children.

Dates: January 13-14, 2020

Location: Embassy Suites by Hilton Sacramento

Early bird Registration deadline: November 15, 2019

Early bird cost: \$240

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CHARTER SCHOOL LEGISLATION SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

PTA supported [AB 1505](#) (O'Donnell) which reforms the Charter Schools Act of 1992 by allowing communities to consider the fiscal impact of new charter schools on existing schools in the neighborhood. This reflects an agreement by a wide range of stakeholders to overhaul charter school law.

"This is historic legislation that marks a new chapter of collaboration between charter and traditional schools in California," Governor Newsom said in signing the bill.

According to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond: "This represents the first significant overhaul of charter school law since it was introduced decades ago. This legislation allows for thoughtful consideration of the establishment of new charter schools by allowing us to weigh fiscal and community impacts when making decision about when to authorize a new charter school. It also provides clarity to authorizers and charter school applicants about how charter schools should be renewed."

Other charter school bills that were supported by California State PTA and signed by the Governor include:

- [AB 1507](#) which removes exemptions in current law to require charter schools to operate within the geographic boundaries of their authorizing district.
- [SB 126](#) which requires charter schools and charter management organizations to adhere to public records and open meeting laws.

UPDATE ON PTA CO-SPONSORED BILL AB 842 (LIMON)

Thanks to all of you who responded to our requests to contact the Senate Appropriations Committee and Governor Newsom regarding AB 842 (Limón). The bill would have provided nutritious meals to children in public preschools and childcare centers who met free and reduced lunch criteria.

Unfortunately, while it passed the Legislature, the Governor did not sign the bill. The veto recommendation by the Department of Finance was based on cost estimates made on an older version of the bill and made the bill appear more costly than it actually was.

PTA has a long history of taking positions that benefit children. Research shows adequate nutrition is critical to learning. Given what we now know about brain development, it is important that our youngest learners receive nutritious meals. This is why PTA co-sponsored this bill.

The Governor has indicated that preschool and early education are important issues for him. PTA will work to ensure that adequate access to nutritious meals for low income children is included in his future plans for early childhood education.

Again, thanks to all of you who supported this work.

GUN VIOLENCE

According to a study by Florida Atlantic University's Schmidt College of Medicine, 2,462 school-aged children died from gun-related injuries in 2017, a death rate six to nine times higher than other developed nations.

National PTA has taken action to address the safety of our nation's children. National PTA President Leslie Boggs participated in a [U.S. House of Representatives Gun Violence Prevention Task Force](#) Forum on the "Impact of Gun Violence on Children and the Need for a Senate Vote on Universal Background Checks" on September 18, 2019.

Last week the National PTA Board of Directors added to a long list of many advocacy activities over the years by amending the association's position statement on [Gun Safety and Violence Prevention](#) to reinforce the unwavering call for universal background checks and the adoption of 'red flag' laws, among other measures that will decrease gun violence and make our schools and communities safer for everyone.

National PTA sent a [letter](#) in early September to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell urging him to bring the Background Check Expansion bill to the floor and facilitate its passage in the Senate. National PTA demands that Congress and the president act today and put laws in place that address our nation's gun violence epidemic and protect our children and families.



PTA continues to advocate for common-sense and comprehensive gun safety and violence prevention measures, while preserving the lawful use of firearms for sport and personal protection. It has been and remains a top priority of the association to prevent and eliminate violence in schools, communities and at home.

CALIFORNIA STATE PTA APPLAUDS GOVERNOR NEWSOM'S SUPPORT FOR SB 328 – LATER SCHOOL START TIMES

SACRAMENTO – California State PTA, co-sponsor of State Senator Anthony Portantino's later school start time bill, applauds Governor Newsom's decision to sign [SB 328](#).

The California PTA co-sponsored bill will prohibit middle schools from beginning their school day before 8:00 a.m. and high schools from beginning their school day before 8:30 a.m.

"The California State PTA was an early champion of this bill, which represents an enormous victory for youth across the Golden State," said California State PTA President Celia Jaffe. "Our members believe later school start times address the very real biological changes that every teenager experiences. The research is clear that sleep

deprivation is an epidemic among adolescents, and those who get sufficient sleep not only perform better academically, but are also less likely to be involved in traffic accidents, have a reduced risk of obesity and depression, and have overall better quality of life.”

“We recognize that this bill will require structural changes in the way schools operate, which is why we worked with legislators to ensure that SB 328 provides a three-year period for local districts to determine how to best implement these changes in their own communities,” she added. “Despite the challenges posed to schools, we feel the passage of this important bill puts kids’ needs first. Governor Newsom’s decision to change school start times will improve the health, safety and academic success of students, and PTA members across the state are so pleased to see that the efforts of the current and past board, as well as the outstanding advocacy efforts of our local leaders, helped this bill become law. We thank Senator Portantino for championing this worthy issue.”

California State PTA would also like to thank advocate, Carol Kocivar for her extensive work on the bill. PTA was assisted in our efforts by local PTA leaders and members from all over the state who responded to our action alerts as well as made visits to their local legislators to express their support of the bill. Additional thanks go out to the entire Legislation Team, past Legislation Director Lea Darrah, Past President Dianna MacDonald, President Celia Jaffe and current Director of Legislation Shereen Walter for their work and support of the bill.

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