



**Delaware**  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>

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# Legislative, Regulatory, and Policy Positions For 2013-1014

**DELAWARE PTA**  
Delaware Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.  
**Legislative Positions and Priorities**

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**Legislative efforts will be constant with the purposes of the Delaware PTA, and shall include stewardship of legislation through the regulatory and policy implementation process.**

The Delaware PTA state legislative program encompasses legislative initiatives defined below and to carry out the legislative mission statement

**Mission:**

To impact policy that benefits children by providing collaborating with decision makers on the development and implementation of legislative policies and initiatives in the areas of education, health and wellness and the judicial representation of Delaware's youth.

To collaborate in creating, to review and provide comment on, and to take positions related to legislation, regulation and policy areas that impact the well-being and education of the children of Delaware, in collaboration with the related Delaware PTA committees where applicable.

To inform DPTA membership and to solicit input on policy issues those impacts the well-being and education of the children of Delaware.

## **The Delaware PTA will:**

### **Immediate priorities**

Promote and support legislation, resolutions and regulations which recognizes and implements, based on the critical nature of parent engagement in improving the outcomes for children, the necessity for effective statewide support structures for parent engagement to support all public schools in developing their individualized comprehensive parent engagement programs.

Promote and support legislation to provide comprehensive and effective bullying prevention in schools in the 2013 legislative session.

Support and promote legislation that offers state funding in the form of block grants for schools to develop and implement academic accelerated programs.

Support and promote legislation that seeks to increase family engagement via full transparency at the district level by use of digital recordings and posting of those school board meetings.

Support and promote legislation that focuses on the development and expansion of early childhood education initiatives.

Promote and support legislation and regulations to ensure verification which provides parental confidence that needs based funding flows and unit allocations, and associated staff supported by those units follows and meets the needs of the students who earn the funding and to work to create dedicated unit funding counts for Special education students in the basic funding category in K-3<sup>rd</sup> grades.

Monitor regulatory processes and the development and implementation of legislation for limitations on the use of restraint and seclusion in schools and programs which are paid for by DDOE. This shall include but is not limited to, requirements for family engagement in the decision making process for the use of seclusion.

Support and promote National PTA resolutions and initiatives which benefit the children of Delaware though legislative and policy advocacy.

Promote and support legislation, including working through the preference task force to end both active and passive discrimination in school choice admission preferences and attendance opportunities,

### **147 General Assembly**

Promote and support legislation to increase graduation rates and to maintain student in public schools prior to their graduation, by providing support flexibility for student at risk of dropping out and to increase the dropout age to 18.

Support legislation that provides funding for a parent/family and community engagement position in each school district.

Promote and support legislation and regulation to improve support for charter schools through increased collaboration between school districts and charter schools including providing comment to workgroups and taskforces who are assigned responsibility to these areas.

Promote and support legislation sufficient state funding to maintain comprehensive programs at the secondary level.

Oppose legislation or regulation that would mandate the use of a single indicator or test to determine student promotion or placement.

Promote and support legislation and regulation to improve college and career ready students by properly measuring the value of broader life functional skills which are part of the educational curriculum in the DPAS and other programs

Supports current code keeping school board elections in the month of May and those elections are held at our schools and support sun setting provision to any bill attempting to move school board elections to coincide with the general election.

Promote and support legislation that would end excessive testing programs of students

Promote and support legislation and regulation to update school design standards under the major capital bonding programs to reflect current best practices in parent engagement, special education, student health supports and other advancements in education.

Review and comment on the renewal of the ESEA waiver to ensure the ESEA waiver is implemented with fidelity in both regulation and policy.

Provide comment on ESEA reauthorization

Provide comment on IDEA reauthorization

Promote and support legislation to cap the transfer of transportation costs for public school students from state to local districts at a maximum of 10%.

Promote and support legislation for certifications for paraprofessionals to serve special populations both regular and special education classrooms, with step increases for these certifications.

Promote and support legislation to implement the Delaware strategic plan for Autism.

Promote and support legislation for autism training for all educators who support children with Autism

Promote and support legislation to have needs based funding follow students into special and private placement, when these placements are needed to provide FAPE or to protect the wellbeing of the child.

Promote and support legislation or regulations requiring school buses be equipped with seat belts or restraining devices that must meet minimum federal motor vehicle safety standards and urges school districts to implement their use.

Promote and support legislation to strengthen the Delaware Code relating to sexual abuse of children.

Promote and support early childhood education which is structured inclusive for all interested families

### **Long term initiatives**

Promote and support legislation that provides comprehensive services and developmentally appropriate education programs for young children and their families.

Promote and support legislation which acknowledges the balance between academic curriculum and the functional curricular areas including social development, organizational skill, and other life skill which are necessary for children to be college, career, and live ready and the importance of metrics to ensure these areas are addressed

Promote and support legislation that would create a new funding unit category for certified school social workers.

Promote and support legislation that would create a funding unit for certified counselors in public schools.

Promote and support legislation for revenue neutral conversion of outdated property assessments to a current assessment system, based on a 5 year rolling reassessment for the purposes of providing reduced and representative tax rates and providing for inflationary factors

Support an increase in state funding for permanent school nurses that will guarantee a minimum of one full time nurse in every school.

Promote and support legislation that would mandate certified counselors in public schools – Kindergarten through twelfth grade.

**Supportive opportunities**

Support legislation to provide adequate financial resources that support carefully monitored childcare programs that ensure personnel and facilities meet acceptable standards

Support legislation that would establish a statewide supervisor/coordinator for early childhood services.

Support legislation that would improve the coordination and delivery of social, and health services to children and families.

Support legislation that would provide equitable access to quality, affordable healthcare for all children, youth, and pregnant women.

Support legislation requiring background checks on all individuals purchasing handguns in this state.

Support legislation to protect children and youth from dangerous weapons and firearms in the home, school, and community.

**Emerging opportunities**

The Delaware PTA executive board will authorize executive board policy positions, and priorities for emerging or critical areas of legislation, regulation or policies between the annual conventions meeting that do not conflict with the above positions.