



Delaware PTA Summary of Support for Senate Bill 27

The overall mission of PTA is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Delaware PTA supports Senate Bill 27 as we believe it will give schools and families the opportunity to nurture student's strengths and interests, thereby increasing their confidence and resilience. As children experience success they become confident in their abilities. We believe that Senate Bill 27 will encourage students to explore interests which will excite them and motivate them to become life-long learners.

- One of the primary concerns of the State PTA is that our schools offer programs that are tailored to the needs of all of our children. We believe that offering specialized educational services will help overcome the stereotypical notions about learning disabilities and giftedness that can impede identification and programming for twice exceptional students, students with disabilities as well as students capable of advanced academic work.
- The Delaware PTA is also very committed to promoting the understanding and implementation of the Common Core Standards to help every student achieve in reading, writing and math. In addition to the core subjects, all students deserve the opportunity to explore and be involved in the arts. The National PTA's Reflections Program is the PTA's cornerstone arts program and this bill allows schools the flexibility to develop programming that recognizes student strengths in other areas such as the arts.
- In talking to parents up and down the state, one of the frustrations we often hear is that there are not enough opportunities for students who are capable of doing very advanced work in the basic academic areas of reading, writing, math and science. This is especially true in our elementary and middle schools. Many of our schools offer piecemeal programs, but very few offer opportunities for these students to be challenged for several hours a day. Parents want their kids to maximize their potential, but for too many of our member parents, the only opportunities to provide this for their kids is to consider sending them to charter schools or private schools.



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- We have a very active PTA chapter at Mount Pleasant Elementary School, one of the schools that has a day-long program targeted at academically advanced students. The parents at the school are very enthusiastic about the program – both those parents whose students are enrolled in it, and the parents whose students are not but who see the positive impact that it has on all the students at the school. Parents from all over the Brandywine School District choose their students into Mount Pleasant to take advantage of its program.
- Senate Bill 27 provides us with the opportunity to spread this type of programming to other schools throughout the state. It also allows for schools to be innovative – some may choose to propose programs exactly like Mount Pleasant's, others may choose to propose programs that include the arts or that involve only half of a school rather than the full day. What is important to us is that parents be able to find the right spot where their kids can fulfill their potential. Right now, there are not enough opportunities for kids who can do this work, and this bill would help remedy that.