



Delaware PTA's Position Statement on School Safety

In response to the article "NRA schools report suggest training staff in weapons" that appeared in the April 2, 2013 edition of the Delaware News Journal, the Delaware PTA would like to offer the following statement.

Delaware PTA's position on school safety is consistent with the position statement put forth by National PTA. The Delaware PTA believes that school safety is a critical priority for all parents, educators, students and community members. Safe school communities emphasize social, emotional, and academic growth as equally vital components to providing quality education in a safe environment. We firmly believe that school safety is a multi-faceted issue that includes restricting access to guns from persons who may endanger public safety, providing access to and education about mental health issues that impact our children and families, implementing and enforcing anti-bullying policies that include enforcement of reporting requirements for schools and the continued use of law enforcement school resource officers in Delaware schools.

The Delaware PTA supports the efforts of Governor Jack Markell, Attorney General Beau Biden and Lt. Governor Matt Denn to pass legislation for responsible gun safety proposals. However, the Delaware PTA does not support the use of armed educators in our schools in lieu of or in addition to school resource officers as proposed by the NRA.

The Delaware PTA is currently working with Attorney General Biden and Lt. Governor Denn to host a series of town hall meetings throughout the state of Delaware beginning in May. The focus of these meetings will be to elicit community response and feedback on the issue of school safety, bullying prevention and access to mental health services, including early identification through effective communication between families, educators and clinicians. For more information on this and other issues, we encourage community members to visit our website at www.delawarepta.org

Respectfully,

The Delaware PTA