

2016-2017 Colorado PTA Legislative Platform

The Colorado PTA promotes and encourages well-informed and broad-based voter participation. The Legislative Platform represents our basic beliefs on important legislative issues.

Public Education - *The Colorado PTA supports:*

1. Policies and legislation which strengthen the public school system.
2. Equal opportunity for quality education for all public school children and youth.
3. Enforcement of compulsory school attendance laws.
4. Developmentally appropriate, early childhood education, including preschool and kindergarten, and programs that enable children to start school ready to learn.
5. High standards for student performance, focusing on (a) reaching a clear and common understanding about what students should be learning in academic subject areas, (b) measuring student progress toward meeting these expectations, and (c) using this information to make changes in curriculum to help students meet these expectations for the skills and knowledge they should acquire.
6. Assessments that are sensitive to individual student needs, serve as diagnostic tools for teachers, and are meaningful and useful to parents and students.
7. The use of multiple measurements and indicators to determine the quality of education, in a way that avoids comparisons of school districts or individual schools.
8. Applying all the same state and federal accountability requirements to any education institution receiving public funds.
9. Article IX, Section 15, of the Colorado Constitution, which requires that local boards of education have control of the instruction in the public schools within their districts. Those local boards must follow State law including, but not limited to, the Sunshine Law.
10. Cooperation between families and school staff to maintain well-disciplined schools.
11. Meaningful parental involvement and engagement in all aspects of their children's education and development, from birth to adulthood that includes parents in decision-making.
12. A well-rounded curriculum that recognizes the value of and includes multi-media, the arts, music, physical education, and social-emotional support.
13. Increased investment in funding high-quality before- and after-school programs that use schools and other public facilities and are accessible to all children.
14. Public school choice that retains and enhances the integrity of public schools; serves the public interest; and ensures parent and community engagement, accountability to the community and authorizer, and quality of services.

Finance - *The Colorado PTA supports:*

1. Adequate state funding to local school districts and higher education for students in pre-kindergarten through post-secondary education.
2. Additional revenue to support capital improvements of schools.
3. Adequate funding for all public school programs and services mandated by any level of government.
4. Prioritization of public school funding to directly affect student success.
5. Use of taxpayer dollars for education to be appropriated only for public schools.
6. Equity in funding for all types of public schools, such as charter schools and alternative schools.
7. Safeguarding all resources and revenues designated for education, and full funding of Amendment 23 (Article IX, Section 17 of the State Constitution), as the voters intended.
8. A comprehensive study and analysis of tax policy in order to establish a reliable and adequate source of funding for public education.
9. Sound financial management of School Trust Lands and all revenues they generate to provide the maximum benefit to the children in public education who are the beneficiaries, and the requirement that these monies do not supplant existing education funding.

Health and Safety - *The Colorado PTA supports:*

1. Laws providing necessary services, policies, and requirements for the general good health, nutritional, and physical and mental well-being of all Colorado children, youth, and their families.
2. Child care programs that meet acceptable standards and are affordable to all families.
3. The development of adequately funded programs and services for the prevention of youth violence and the support of mental and social-emotional health concerns.
4. Laws that protect the health, wellness, and safety of children and youth, including a prohibition of corporal punishment in public schools.
5. Public policy that provides access to immunizations for all children.

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