

# ADVOCACY ALERT



March 2008

## March is PTA Advocacy Month

***All children in New York State need your help!***

Governor Spitzer's proposed 2008-09 Executive Budget contains some provisions that support sound educational initiatives and others that are of concern. A budget summary is available in the March edition of *Legislative Briefs*

Go to : [www.nyspta.org](http://www.nyspta.org)

NYS PTA is mounting a campaign to address two critical issues:

***Property Tax Caps and Healthy School Foods***

We are asking every PTA member to participate in our legislative campaign. The campaign is two-fold: a letter/postcard writing initiative and a Virtual Lobby Day.

### ***How You Can Participate***

***Starting immediately, write letters and/or postcards to the Governor and your representatives in Albany. You can use the attached letters and postcards, or create your own using the issue briefs included. Letters should be sent to all listed on the reverse side, and your local area representatives. Have members sign several copies at your meetings, and send them all in one envelope. Postcards included should be duplicated on postcard sheets available at local office supply stores (remember to affix a stamp). Duplicate a batch and have members sign at your next meeting! Send out the letters/postcards more than once. The more Albany hears from us, the stronger our message becomes.***

### ***VIRTUAL LOBBY DAY: MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>\****

On this day we ask *all PTA members* to call, email and/or fax their legislators. Tell them:

- You support the Healthy School Foods Act
- You oppose property tax caps. Alternative measures that will provide needed property tax relief AND preserve the quality of our schools and communities must be examined!

Contact all legislators listed, as well as your local representatives.

*We need thousands of voices to ensure our message is heard.*

***This is our opportunity to mobilize so that all children have access to a sound education! This is Advocacy Action!***

**Together we can send a powerful message to Albany**

\*note: this is a date change

**New York State**

**PTA**

*everychild.one voice.*