

ADVOCACY ALERT



TAKE ACTION!

Reauthorization: **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act**

As a part of the National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition, National PTA issued a statement of principles in approaching the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), scheduled for consideration this year. Unfortunately, with so much critical legislation yet to be addressed by Congress, including all of the annual appropriations bills, the JJDP reauthorization has begun to lose momentum. Reauthorizing the JJDP and strengthening its provisions using the principles listed below are important to the continued success of effective juvenile crime prevention and deterrence.

1. **Keep children and youth out of the justice system:** Whenever possible, keep children and youth out of the juvenile and criminal justice systems by addressing their needs and those of their families early and effectively.
 2. **Ensure equity and competence:** Do everything possible to ensure equity and competence with regard to race, ethnicity, culture, language, gender and sexual orientation, in legal representation before the courts and throughout all system practices and policies.
 3. **Ensure responses appropriate to a young person's age and stage of development:** Do everything possible to ensure that children and youth in the justice system are treated in an age-appropriate manner and provided with developmentally appropriate, evidenced-based services and supports. Ensure, when needed, that sanctions are appropriate to a youth's age and offense.
 4. **Strengthen the federal partnership with state and local governments:** Strengthen the federal role in supporting state and local needs by providing sufficient resources and appropriations for jurisdictions to effectively implement the JJDP, to fully comply with its core requirements/protections and to ensure state and local adherence to high standards of performance.
- NYS PTA has a long history of supporting the improvement of the juvenile justice system. Our Basic Policy calls for members to work to improve juvenile justice and court facilities, educational conditions, personnel, and procedures that deal with delinquent, neglected, and abused children and youth

Our NYS PTA policy and positions, coupled with National PTA's principles to strengthen the Act's provisions, form a strong basis to work collaboratively with child advocates and legislators for the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. We must work together to ensure effective crime prevention and deterrence programs and policies while safeguarding children and youth, and our communities, through standards of care, custody and opportunities for after-care and rehabilitation. For additional information, go to www.act4jjd.org. Please use the information provided to contact your Congressional representatives and ask that they vote for reauthorization of JJDP this year.