



2009-2010 LEGISLATIVE DIRECTIVES

New York State PTA, with a membership of more than 346,000 parents, teachers, students, administrators and community members, advocates for all children and youth from birth through post-secondary education. Legislative Directives, adopted by the NYS PTA Board of Managers at the annual pre-convention meeting, list issues priorities upon which we expect to target advocacy efforts for the current school year. As educational and social conditions are always changing, it is not unusual for unexpected issues to emerge. In response to unanticipated changes and the need for action, Directives may be amended by the NYS PTA Board of Managers.

The 2009-2010 Legislative Directives are:

Support for Public Education:

- Support education finance reform to provide equitable funding for the education of all children in New York State;
- Support the provision of equal educational opportunities for all children including homeless children, foster children, emancipated youth and those who are incarcerated;
- Oppose imposition of artificial tax caps on public school districts that disregard uncontrollable school cost drivers, create greater educational inequities, and undermine the long held principle of local control;
- Support legislation that would change the method of funding charter schools to eliminate any adverse impact on existing school districts and ensure charter school accountability;
- Oppose the diversion of public funds from public schools for vouchers and tuition tax credits, and by State, or other agencies or authorities to fund certain state interests;
- Support fiscal independence for all school districts;
- Support funding for Pre-K and full day kindergarten;
- Support adequate funding for school districts to provide continuing professional development for educators;
- Support adequate and equitable funding for maintenance and modernization of school facilities;
- Support full funding for IDEA and NCLB and all other federal laws affecting the education of children and youth in New York State.

Safe and Nurturing Environments:

- Support healthy children and youth initiatives including those addressing mental and physical health needs;
- Support initiatives that foster a supportive school climate;
- Support policies and initiatives that engage home, school and community in violence prevention planning and measures;
- Support class size reduction efforts;
- Support quality, affordable, accessible school-based before school and after school programs;
- Support initiatives to require the use of seat belts on all school buses;
- Support legislation advocating for improved child nutrition including weight issues and eating disorders;
- Support legislation, policies and regulations that protect children and youth when using the Internet, wireless devices and other forms of electronic communications.

Parent and Family Engagement:

- Support parent and family engagement in all state and federal education policies based on National PTA Standards;
- Support representation of New York State PTA as one of the parent voices on statewide interagency parent and family cabinets/councils;
- Support the development of effective parent and family engagement plans in every school using a reportable accountability system.