

# Utah PTA Public Policy Program

## 2015-2016

### The Utah PTA Purposes

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship.
- To raise the standards of home life.
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate more intelligently in the education of children and youth.
- To develop, between educators and the general public, such united efforts as will secure, for all children and youth, the highest advantages in physical, social, and spiritual education.

### The Utah PTA Public Policy Program has four components:

1. The Utah PTA Legislative Policy
2. The Utah PTA Legislative Priorities and Directives
3. The Utah and National PTA Resolutions
4. Position Statements

### **1. The Utah PTA Legislative Policy**

The legislative policy is the philosophy and general principles which guide the Utah PTA's consideration of proposed legislation.

The Utah PTA is a non-profit, grassroots, child advocacy association made up of parents, teachers, and students. The legislative program of the Utah PTA is derived from the work of PTA in home, school, and community. PTA efforts "to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth" are based upon: (1) the recognition of the home as the foundation of our society; (2) parental involvement as an essential component of all policy-making processes pertaining to children; (3) the observance and understanding of the rights and obligations of responsible citizenship and ethical government; and, (4) the realization that maintaining a free and public education system is a cornerstone of democracy—that the Utah Public Education System is created in the state Constitution to "secure and perpetuate" freedom.

#### General Principles for Consideration of Proposed Legislation:

1. Equal justice, privileges, opportunities, and responsibilities in every phase of life for all children and youth, while recognizing that each child is unique with individual needs and talents.
2. High standards for those who work in all areas concerned with children and youth.
3. Coordination and planning by all agencies with clear definition of responsibility at each level of government.
4. Prioritizing the needs of all children and youth, while adhering to fiscal responsibility in government.
5. Maximum local control when it serves the best interest of all children and youth.
6. Continued maintenance of the constitutional guarantee of financial support for public schools as the first claim on state revenues.
7. Maintenance of Utah PTA's viability as a non-profit voice for children.

### **2. The Utah PTA Legislative Priorities and Directives**

The legislative priorities are the association's current legislative priorities. They are the issues that the Utah PTA feels are our highest legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session. They are approved at the September Board of Directors meeting and presented to the membership at the annual Legislative Advocacy Conference in October.

## The Utah PTA 2015-2016 Legislative Priorities

- 1. State School Board Election Process**  
Directive from: Position Statement - State Board Election PS EDU 2015
- 2. Education Funding**  
Directive from: Resolution - Funding for Education EDU 2010-2
- 3. State and Federal Action that Benefits the School Land Trust**  
Directive from: Resolution - School Trust Lands EDU 2015-1
- 4. Intergenerational Poverty**  
Directive from: Resolution - Intergenerational Poverty FAM 2014-1
- 5. Expansion of Optional Extended Day Kindergarten**  
Directive from: Resolution - Full-day Kindergarten EDU 2007-1
- 6. Reimbursement Rate for Foster Care Families**  
Directive from: Resolution - Foster Care Standards FAM 1998-2
- 7. Medicaid “Coverage Gap” Funding**  
Directive from: Resolution - Intergenerational Poverty FAM 2014-1

The Utah PTA Legislative Directives are based upon the actions called for by the Utah PTA and National PTA resolutions and position statements. Rather than providing an exhaustive list of the areas in which the Utah PTA is involved, the directives are indicative of issues on which PTA expects to target its efforts and activity. All PTA statewide public policy work is consistent with the Utah PTA’s priorities and directives, resolutions, and position statements.

### **3. The Utah and National PTA Resolutions**

Resolutions and positions are formal statements of PTA public or association policy voted by the delegates at the annual Utah PTA and National PTA Conventions. The process for moving forward a resolution is:

1. A PTA can propose resolutions to the Utah PTA Resolutions Committee.
2. The Utah PTA Resolutions Committee reviews submitted resolutions and recommends action to the Utah PTA Board of Directors.
3. The Utah PTA Board of Directors forwards resolutions to the delegates at either the Advocacy Conference or the Leadership Convention for consideration.
4. Resolutions must be approved by the conference or convention body to become official policies of the association.

*Utah PTA resolutions and position statements are found on the Utah PTA website, <http://www.utahpta.org/resolutions-position-statements>.*

### **4. The Utah and National PTA Position Statements**

Position statements are initiated by members of the Utah PTA or National PTA Board of Directors and approved by a majority vote of that body. Position statements provide guidance rather than prescribe specific policy actions to be taken by the association and are meant to be temporary in their nature until a resolution on the issue can be passed by the membership at the annual Utah PTA Leadership Convention. Position statements have the same level of authority as resolutions.