

## **2016 National PTA Public Policy Agenda Summary**

### **Elementary and Secondary Education**

1. Encourage school districts to invest more in evidence-based family engagement activities to support students, families and schools
2. Include proven family engagement strategies and practices in ESEA/ESSA guidance and regulations where appropriate
3. Ensure all students receive quality instruction from well-prepared teachers and have access to well-rounded and rigorous curriculum that facilitate student learning and growth

### **Special Education**

1. Incorporate PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships as a best practice model for family engagement in special education
2. Protect the rights of all children with special needs and their parents, and ensure all students with a disability have the resources and support they need for a high-quality education
3. Increase coordination in the implementation of ESEA/ESSA and IDEA, ensuring that all students graduate college and career ready

### **Federal Investment in Education**

1. Increase investments in the foundational formula programs such as Title I and IDEA
2. Provide adequate appropriations for the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFECs)
3. Support greater financial investment in our nation's children in programs that support family engagement and early learning, provide well-rounded educational opportunities, and improve student safety and health

### **Early Learning and Childhood Education**

1. Ensure family engagement initiatives begin at birth, at home and in other early learning environments to guarantee coordinated family engagement throughout childhood
2. Increase access to high-quality, public pre-kindergarten for all students to prepare them for successful kindergarten entry
3. Encourage local school districts to use ESEA/ESSA Title I resources to support high-quality early childhood education programs for eligible children ages zero to five

### **Child Health and Safety**

1. Strengthen and improve child nutrition programs, provide resources and technical assistance to schools, and engage families in implementing healthy and nutritious meals in schools
2. Enact policies to address all types of bullying and implement bullying prevention strategies at school and outside of the classroom to provide a safe and nurturing environment for teaching and learning
3. Support programs that provide for a child's health and wellness—including mental health—as they progress through each stage of development into adulthood and help families monitor their child's well-being

### **Gun Safety and Violence Prevention**

1. Advocate for providing significant resources and incentives for states and local jurisdictions to create connected communities and positive school climates that are trauma-sensitive to keep students healthy and in school
2. Promote education initiatives that raise public awareness of firearm safety and gun violence prevention strategies including safe gun storage programs
3. Support legislation requiring a waiting period and comprehensive background check prior to purchasing a firearm from licensed and unlicensed dealers

### **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**

1. Encourage states and communities to include evidence-based family engagement strategies in juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs
2. Pass legislation that incentivizes community, school and family-focused interventions for status offenses—such as breaking curfew—and ensures that detained youth are kept separate from adults
3. Support federal programs that continue a child’s education while detained and allows for a smooth transition back to the classroom and their community

### **Education Technology and Student Data Privacy**

1. Promote policies that increase access to digital devices and broadband to promote personalized learning
2. Modernize federal laws to better protect students’ educational records and the collection of information gathered online
3. Ensure families are informed on the use of technology in schools and know their rights under federal law to protect their child’s personal and educational information