

CONTINUING CONCERNS

FUNDING

Florida PTA urges the Legislature to fully fund strategies and programs that ensure the health, safety and education of the children of Florida.

HIGH STAKES TESTING

Florida PTA opposes the use of a national, mandated, standardized test as the sole criterion for measuring a school or student's progress.

PTA believes that student assessments should identify how instruction and learning can be improved. Assessments should be used to help parents and teachers determine the specific academic needs of students and increase opportunities for student learning.

PARENT TRIGGER

Florida PTA opposes any changes to a traditional public school by converting to a charter school run by a for-profit management company. School Advisory Councils (SAC), which are required by law in our public schools, already empower parents to address concerns and impact the school improvement plan.



The Florida Parent Teacher Association is the largest statewide volunteer organization working exclusively on behalf of children and youth. Founded in 1921 as a branch of the 6 million member National PTA, Florida PTA is made up of approximately 1,400 local units with more than 300,000 Florida members seeking to unite home, school and community for all children.

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**Florida
PTA[®]**

everychild. one voice.

2013 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



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EDUCATION

CHARTER SCHOOLS / VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

PTA supports public school choice and acknowledges public charter schools as one of many avenues to improving student achievement. Florida PTA supports the creation of charter schools based on a set of principles that are designed to keep the integrity of public schools intact. Charter schools (including full-time virtual schools) must

- Establish a level playing field in areas of fiscal responsibility, accountability and student enrollment.
- Require funding to follow the student when transferring between charter and the traditional public school during the school year.
- Ensure staff are certified for their positions
- Involve parents in decision-making processes

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Florida PTA urges the legislature to support and fully fund high-quality child care and preschool programs that are affordable and accessible, coordinated at all levels (federal, state, and local), and characterized by high standards for teaching, training, health, and safety.

The overall purpose of PTA is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

HEALTH

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Florida PTA urges the legislature to support daily physical education programs taught by certified PE teachers as an integral part of every child's education.



"If obesity among children continues to increase, our current generation will become the first in American history to live shorter lives than their parents." - The American Heart Association

SAFETY

DISTRACTED DRIVING

Florida PTA supports the adoption and enforcement of laws that restrict the manipulation of handheld and portable communication devices while driving.



"Our youngest and most inexperienced drivers are most at risk, with 16% of all distracted driving crashes involving drivers under 20. But they are not alone. At any given moment during daylight hours, over 800,000 vehicles are being driven by someone using a hand-held cell phone." - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

BOOSTER SEATS

Florida PTA urges the legislature to enact legislation requiring the use of child restraints including booster seats.