

Supporting Student Success

English Language Learners (ELL)

- Test English language learners in their native language in subjects unrelated to English/ Language Arts ensuring that their knowledge of content can be accurately assessed.
- Use recognized English Language Proficiency Assessments to measure proficiency in English.

Dyslexia and Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs)

- Ensure the adoption of evidence-based approaches, implementation of best practices, and educational policies to best meet the needs of students with dyslexia and other SLDs.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

- Increase funding for CTE programs to provide for CTE instructors, flexibility in the expansion of CTE pathways, and ensure recruitment of a diverse population of program enrollees to ensure equitable access to programming.

Parent Engagement & Title I

- Remove the 2% cap on Title I dollars allowed for parent engagement.

Equal Access, Accountability & Transparency

All educational institutions receiving public dollars, whether directly or indirectly, should be held to the same academic and accountability standards.

- Provide equal educational opportunities for all students regardless of race, gender, national origin, language, religion, age, disability, or sexual orientation.
- Require all schools receiving funding through any state-authorized voucher, grant, or scholarship programs to adhere to the same statewide mandated assessment, school performance grading system, student enrollment requirements, and to involve parents in decision making processes.

Funding

The Florida PTA urges the Legislature to give education programs high priority and ensure adequate funding provisions to guarantee an equal educational opportunity for all children, to include:

- High quality VPK programs
- High quality K-12 public education
- Post-Secondary education
- Career and Technical Education (CTE)



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PTA®**
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2020 Legislative Priorities



Advocating for all Kids!

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Supporting Teachers

Support all policy and supported funding to attract and retain the best and brightest teachers to educate and inspire Florida's children.

Teacher Shortage and Retention

- Advocate for adequate funding to bring Florida's teachers' salaries up to the National average and encourage experienced teachers to stay in the classroom by fully funding a system to provide career teachers with periodic advancement and salary increases without supplanting current funding to dollars.

Wellbeing of Children

Mental Health

- Promote student access to proactive mental health services and ensure state and local elected officials and policymakers provide necessary funding and support for these services to be effective.
- Ensure best practice ratios of qualified professionals to students are used in schools.

LGBTQ+ Youth

- Support legislation that specifically protects LGBTQ+ youth, like banning funding and promotion of conversion therapy.

Texting and Driving

- Promote education that increases awareness of the dangers of distracted driving. Support laws that restrict the use of any hand held device that may distract from driving.

Water Safety

- Encourage and support policies that increase access to consistent, quality standards for water safety and swimming instruction.

Anti-Bullying

Every child deserves to go to school excited to learn in a safe and nurturing environment, without the fear of bullying violence or discrimination.

- Encourage school districts to incorporate inclusive policies and practices that create safe learning environments for all students.

School Safety

Students deserve a safe environment in which to live, learn and grow. Unfortunately, the threat of violence is a presence in many communities and has grown in a number of schools across the country.

- The most effective day-to-day school climate is gun-free, which includes not arming teachers and administrators.
- Ensure the development and adequate funding of a School Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for every school district. The most effective plans are developed in cooperation with school and health officials, parents, and community members.

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.



Early Childhood Education

Promote effective programs for children from birth to age five that are adequately funded, developmentally appropriate, and coordinate comprehensive services for young children and their families.

- Support state incentives for quality child care and preschool programs that are accessible and affordable for all children. Support legislation and policies which ensure quality teacher training, health and safety standards.
- Include strong parent and family engagement components in early childhood programs.
- Encourage early detection, interventions, and prevention programs for learning problems and mental health needs.

Gun Violence Prevention

Every day, across the United States, 7 children and teens (ages 0 to 19) die from gun violence. Experts estimate that currently one-third of guns are acquired through transactions exempt from background checks, including gun show and internet purchases. Eighteen states already have legislation requiring background checks at least for handgun purchases at gun shows. A majority of gun owners and NRA members support background checks as consistent with their Second Amendment rights.

- For the safety of all children, Florida should close the "gun show loophole" and implement universal background checks.
- Provide all relevant records to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).
- Florida should outlaw military style semi-automatic weapons.

Juvenile Justice

- Encourage collaboration between law enforcement, the judicial system, and child welfare agencies.
- Encourage the use of Civil Citation as an alternative to youth arrest.
- Prevent the incarceration of youth in adult facilities.
- Support assisting youth leaving the juvenile justice system with programs that prevent recidivism.
- Support increased funding to the Guardian ad Litem program. Ensure that every child in dependency court has a Guardian ad Litem.

