

As the Vice President of Advocacy & Legislation, I am deeply committed to ensuring that every child's voice is heard, and their educational needs are met. Our mission is to empower families and educators to work together to create a positive and supportive learning environment for all students. Through advocacy efforts, we actively engage with policymakers, school leaders, and the community to advocate for necessary reforms, funding, and resources that improve the quality of education. By promoting open communication and collaboration, we ensure that our schools remain inclusive, equitable, and responsive to the diverse needs of our students. I am proud to stand alongside parents, teachers, and community members to champion the rights and well-being of our children, advocating for their future success both inside and outside the classroom. Recently, I attended LegCon. Our Miami-Dade representatives in Tallahassee, in both the Senate and the House, are debating bills that parents should follow and write to their elected legislators about:

Miami Dade County Council PTA/PTSA and Florida PTA are against:

SB94 and HB759, Sales or transfers of firearms to persons under 21 years of age/minimum age for firearm purchase or transfer.

SB918 and HB1225, Employment of minors, these bills propose changes to the regulations governing the employment of minors, including adjustments to permissible working hours and conditions.

SB140 and HB123, Education, these bills purpose various educational reforms, including allowing municipalities to apply for job engine charter schools under certain conditions, requiring school boards to submit 5-year plans before acquiring real property, and prohibiting property acquisition if district enrollment has declined in the preceding five years. The impact of this bill fails to ensure equitable funding for district schools, districts, school accountability reforms, student health, mental health support, and curriculum inclusivity. It prioritizes charter schools' expansion over public.

Miami Dade County Council PTA/PTSA and Florida PTA support:

SB650 and HB85, Hazardous walking. This bill identifies hazardous walking conditions for students traveling to and from school, ensuring safer routes.

SB430 and HB1607, Automated external defibrillators on school grounds.

SB296 and HB261, Middle School and High School start times. These bills aim to reverse the ability to adjust the start times for middle and high schools back to local school boards.

SB102 and HB127, Exceptional Student Education. These bills aim to enhance programs and resources for exceptional student education, ensuring student with special needs received appropriate support.

SB74 and HB119, Universal free school breakfast and lunch.

SB1014 and HB171, Youth conflict resolution and peer mediation pilot program.

SB508 and HB423, Family Empowerment Scholarship. These bills aim to require private schools participating in the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program to provide specified information in writing to parents before student enrollment in the school.

SB1382 and HB859, School Readiness Program. These bills aim to improve early childhood education and prepare children for kindergarten.

SB370 and HB219, Health Screening for K-12 Students.

SB1070 and HB1135, Electro cardiograms for Student Athletes. These bills enhance the safety of children participating in sports, providing peace of mind regarding their health during athletic activities.

SB644 and HB467, Dual Enrollment eligibility. These bills provide opportunities for all students to advance academically and potentially reduce future college costs.

SB70 and HB191, Instructional hours for the voluntary Pre-K Education program. These bills significantly increase the instructional hours required.

SB200 and HB295, Waste and Reduction and Recycling Plan. These bills mandate a comprehensive plan development, technical assistance, sustainable goals and strategies.

SB338 and HB167, Bright Futures Scholarship Program. Expands the Florida Bright Futures to include more eligibility requirements and support programs.