

In today's world, educational equity is possible by providing every student with the resources they need to reach their full potential. Too often the educational materials provided to students lacks a relatable reflection of what their potential can be. Florida PTA, we have to push for better tools for our schools if we are going to effectively address the learning loss and anticipated increases to academic achievement gaps due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One tool that we can sharpen with our PTA voice is instructional material adoptions. School districts that adopt high quality instructional materials have more consistent engagement with students, and can more effectively close achievement gaps at scale.

As PTA leaders, we must harness the increased parental and community engagement due to the COVID-19 pandemic disruption of our educational practices. As parents and child advocates, how many of us have heard teachers, parents, and students complain about their textbooks, worksheets, and programs used in classrooms? As PTA leaders, we know instructional materials can vary from not only district to district, but classroom to classroom. Now, with more parental involvement and new modalities, we hear another cry for increased rigor and concerns over our children "falling behind." One way we can address these concerns and support our education system is to support the adoption of high-quality instructional materials intended for ALL students.

In order to act, we must become more educated and knowledgeable about current education research and discussions about educational equity. We must have an understanding of how our school districts define educational equity as a guiding vision. We must understand the link between standards, curriculum, and assessments. We must help parents and students understand how to use these tools to support their education.

In Florida over the next 2 years, your school districts will be adopting new instructional materials for English Language Arts (ELA) and Math for the K-12 classrooms. Tens of thousands of hours go into materials development, selection methodologies, and school community education. Poor selection and implementation will bear a high cost considering the rising impact from the COVID-19 crisis. Your decision makers need to hear from you now.

Florida PTA participates as a stakeholder with the Florida Department of Education on the ELA and Math Standards Review and the Impact Florida Cadre for High Quality Instructional Materials. Here are a few links to get you started:

Florida Department of Education

- [ELA and Math B.E.S.T. Standards Review and Implementation](#)
- [General Instructional Materials Information](#)
- [Instructional Materials Adoption Timeline](#)

Impact Florida

- [Five Conditions that Support Great Teaching - Resources](#)

TNTP

- [The Opportunity Myth](#)
- [A Parents Bill of Rights](#)
- [An Action Guide for Families and Caregivers](#)

PTA Position Statements

- [Standards & Assessments - PTA Positions - Advocacy | National PTA](#)
- [Inclusive Curriculum in K-12 Education](#)
- [Educational Emphasis](#)
- [Parental Involvement in Site-Based Shared Decision Making](#)

PTA has many position statements and resolutions to sharpen the instructional materials tools, and ensure they are effective for all students in our schools. Use them as you lean into your school district relationships, understand your instructional materials adoption process, and share your educational families' lived experiences. Together, we can ensure your instructional materials will provide every teacher with a usable tool to help their student learn how to reach their full potential.