

# Advocacy September 2009!

What do hot school lunches, polio vaccines, gun safety, substance abuse education and family involvement requirements within No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation have in common?

PTA has advocated for them all!

Did you know that PTA is the largest and oldest child advocacy organization dedicated to the health, welfare, safety and education of children? Advocacy is an intrinsic part of PTA:

## The PTA Mission:

- A powerful voice for all children
- A relevant resource for families and communities
- ***A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child***

## The PTA Purposes:

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship
  - To raise the standards of home life
  - ***To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth***
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth
- To develop between educators and the general public such efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education

*So we have discussed the why, so how about the what...*

What can you do? As a parent we are all advocates for our children. PTA helps with that by providing parent education and supporting family involvement in the schools. Because PTA is a respected part of the education and youth community, we often have a say with governmental and other organizations. You are a part of that by just joining PTA. Being a member is your first additional step in advocacy. Perhaps you want to take advocacy another step. Stay informed! That is where the PTA Advocacy Committees come in. Please look for this monthly report and look to other resources (listed below). An even bigger step is to contact legislators or others about issues that concern you. Ohio PTA has also created a great tool for online advocacy:

***CAPWIZ found at [www.ohiopta.org](http://www.ohiopta.org) click on the Advocacy link***

***With CAPWIZ find your legislators, look up legislation,***

***SIGN UP for the "PTA Takes Action" at the bottom of the website page***

Useful Advocacy websites:

Ohio PTA	<a href="http://www.ohiopta.org">www.ohiopta.org</a>
National PTA	<a href="http://www.pta.org">www.pta.org</a>
State of Ohio	<a href="http://www.ohio.gov">www.ohio.gov</a>
Ohio School Boards Assoc.	<a href="http://www.osba-ohio.org">www.osba-ohio.org</a>
Ohio Education Assoc.	<a href="http://www.oec.columbus.oh.us">www.oec.columbus.oh.us</a>

## Current Advocacy Update:

House Bill 1 (State Biennium Budget): Makes several changes to Ohio's education system (including all day kindergarten, change to the OGT). The Ohio Department of Education is currently reviewing the changes. For more information and a summary: [www.ode.state.oh.us](http://www.ode.state.oh.us)

Please contact me (Elise Fessler @ [bfsing@cinci.rr.com](mailto:bfsing@cinci.rr.com), HCC & Finneytown PTAs' Advocacy Chair) to get on a distribution list for monthly Advocacy Reports (this report can be used as is for meetings and newsletters or edit it as desired but please keep the references mentioned).