

# Advocacy September 2010!

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>

See the next page for current advocacy updates.

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).

## **Current Advocacy Update (Information from Ohio PTA Advocacy E-mail):**

### ➤ **Senate Bill 210 Healthy Choices for Healthy Children Act**

Here are some details on SB210 from the *Weekly Update from Deborah S. Delisle, Superintendent of Public Instruction: Senate Bill 210 (SB 210), known as the Healthy Choices for Healthy Children Act, was signed into law June 18 and becomes effective beginning in the 2010-2011 school year. The law is aimed at combating childhood obesity by ensuring that students have access to healthy meals and beverages at school and requiring that students and parents receive information concerning student health.*

*One of the most immediate requirements is that local education agencies – including all exempted village, local and chartered nonpublic schools, community schools, and STEM schools owned and operated by districts – must begin conducting body mass index (BMI) screenings each year for all students in kindergarten, third grade, fifth grade and ninth grade. Districts also must report aggregate BMI data to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) by June 1 each year.*

*For an overview of required activities, please review BMI Screening Program; Six Implementation Steps. This document, and other resources, such as ODH guidelines, sample parent notification letters and the waiver form visit the ODE website at [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov) and search the keywords: healthy choices for healthy children.*

### ➤ **Corporal Punishment**

Ohio PTA advocated against corporal punishment in Ohio schools last year.

Below is a link to an article that addresses the changes that must be made since the law was passed:

[CORPORAL PUNISHMENT](http://www.indeonline.com/features/x1876494060/Some-school-districts-must-adjust-rulebooks-on-corporal-punishment) (<http://www.indeonline.com/features/x1876494060/Some-school-districts-must-adjust-rulebooks-on-corporal-punishment>)

- **School Funding** Below is an article regarding school funding in the next biennial budget. With an overall budget shortfall of \$8 billion, finding funding for schools is going to be tough.

## **FINDING \$1.7 BILLION MORE FOR EDUCATION IN STATE BUDGET WON'T BE EASY**

**By Catherine Candisky - The Columbus Dispatch**

Ohio public schools would get a \$929 million increase in the next two-year state budget under a new state Department of Education recommendation. But unless the state gets another influx of federal stimulus money, such a jump in funding actually would cost more than \$1.7 billion. That's because the current education budget contains \$845 million in stimulus cash that would have to be replaced before any increase could be made. The department's plan amounts to a 4.5 percent increase in state spending on schools in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011, and another 3.4 percent increase the following year. Increases in state aid to Ohio's 614 school districts, however, would be capped at no more than 1.5 percent each year. Certain programs such as transportation are exempt from the limit. The rest would help pay for the first part of Gov. Ted Strickland's evidence-based funding model, which he says would be phased in over the next eight years to give Ohio a constitutional school-funding system. The department is seeking additional state money for a teacher-residency program, gifted education, the development of new-student assessments and support for first-generation college students from low-income families. Requests include:

- A 72 percent increase in state aid for gifted education next year, to \$119.4 million. That would more than offset a \$1.6 million drop in federal aid. The second-year increase is just under 3 percent.
- A jump of more than 27 percent in state spending on curriculum and assessments for development of tests to go with new academic guidelines required in the current budget. Spending the next year would rise 6.6 percent.
- \$3.1 million both years to support about 2,200 first-generation college students each year.
- \$11.5 million total to create the teacher-residency program to train mentors to develop and evaluate a new assessment for determining whether resident teachers can advance to professional educators.
- Ohio's voucher and charter-school programs would get a 1.1 percent bump in each year of the budget.

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