

Advocacy Update!

**Mark your calendar for the Ohio PTA Advocacy Conference
Tuesday, November 16th in Columbus**

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

* **H.R. 1586 – Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act:** Signed into law, the Education Jobs Fund (Ed Jobs) provides \$10 billion for states to save or create education jobs for the 2010-2011 school year. Ohio is estimated to receive \$361 million from this program. Ohio PTA worked in collaboration to promote the passage of what was originally titled “Keep our Educators Working Act” (S. 3206) by writing letters, emails, and making phone calls to congressional offices. For more information: www.education.ohio.gov.

* **Race to the Top (RttT):** Ten applicants won grants in the second phase of the [Race to the Top \(<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/nine-states-and-district-columbia-win-second-round-race-top-grants> \)](http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/nine-states-and-district-columbia-win-second-round-race-top-grants) competition. Along with Phase 1 winners, 11 additional states were awarded money in the Obama Administration's education reform program that will directly impact 13.6 million students, and 980,000 teachers in 25,000 schools. The 10 winning Phase 2 applications in alphabetical order are: the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, **Ohio**, and Rhode Island. Ohio will receive \$400 million in Race to the Top (RttT) funds over the course of the next four years.

* **Common Core State Initiative:** The goal of the common core state standards is to create a set of fewer, clearer and higher common standards that will be adopted and are evidence and research-based and internationally benchmarked. These common standards will set clear expectations to help parents understand what their children should be able to know and do, will ensure equity for every student – regardless of income or geography, and will help teachers know what to teach.

In December 2009, National PTA announced a new three-year effort to mobilize parents to advance key education reforms, beginning with the **Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI)**, a voluntary, state-led, internationally benchmarked set of high academic standards in **English language arts and mathematics**. In May 2010, Ohio PTA was selected by National to be part of the second wave of NPTA's Common Core State Standards Campaign. Ohio PTA will take significant action to drive the common core standards movement forward in Ohio and improve our advocacy capabilities. Over the summer, an Ohio CCSSI committee was formed. The committee will be trained on CCSSI along with other advocacy skills and will in turn train other PTA leaders throughout the state. The end goal is to educate and train PTA leaders, members, and parents about the common core state standards.

June 2010, the Ohio State Board of Education adopted the Common Core Standards for English, language arts, and mathematics as well as the revisions to Ohio's academic content standards in science and social studies. The model curricula will be completed and adopted by March 31, 2011. The standards will be effective when newly aligned assessments are implemented in several years. The effective date of the new standards is expected to begin with the 2014-15 school year. Ohio PTA will work on this initiative throughout the coming year and will be reaching out to all of its members as we work on this exciting initiative. Information will be posted on the Ohio PTA website, Facebook, and distributed at workshops, conferences, and other events.

Current Advocacy Update (Information from Ohio PTA "The News"):

* **National PTA Partners on Webinars on Family Engagement:** A series of free webinars on family, school and community engagement are being offered through September 2011. Register and view archived webinars at: www.nationalpirc.org/engagement_webinars