

Advocacy September 2012!

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!

Go to : <http://www.pta.org/4786.asp> to watch an excellent short video
"PTA Advocacy: A Legacy of Leadership" and for other Advocacy information.

"Take Action Now" and "Join the Network" are buttons just to the right of the video.

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 report and look to other resources (listed below). An even bigger step is to contact legislators or others about issues that concern you. National PTA has also created a great tool for online advocacy:

Join the "PTA Take Action Network" by signing up at: <http://www.pta.org/takesaction/>

Useful Advocacy websites:

Ohio PTA	www.ohiopta.org
National PTA	www.pta.org
State of Ohio	www.ohio.gov
Ohio School Boards Assoc.	www.osba-ohio.org
Ohio Education Assoc.	www.oea.columbus.oh.us

See the next page for current advocacy updates.

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

The following is taken from the Ohio School Board Assoc. "Facts in a Flash":

State Board of Education

Revised Third Grade Reading Guarantee

The cut score for school year 2012-2013 will be 390 on the third-grade reading section of the Ohio Achievement Assessment, with the cut score rising to 392 for school year 2013-2014. These scores are in the "basic" range and the goal is to eventually reach the "proficient" range, a score of 400. Under the revised third-grade guarantee, students failing to reach the new cut score could be retained. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) contends the impact of these new cut scores will be minimal in most schools.

Release of Report Card Data

The State Board also voted during its September meeting to issue 2011-12 school report card data in raw form without comparative district rankings. The data will appear in an excel spreadsheet that will include composite proficiency test results, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status and value-added scores. Schools and districts will not be rated in this report. Other items left out of this report include attendance rates, performance index scores and the number of indicators met.

From the National PTA website:

Common Core Information

Check out the Common Core information that PTA has put together at:

http://www.pta.org/common_core_state_standards.asp

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