

Advocacy February 2013!

*****PTA TAKE ACTION*** Support Student Access to Mental Health Services**

Ask your Members of Congress to Cosponsor the Mental Health in Schools Act

<http://capwiz.com/npta2/issues/alert/?alertid=62370566&queueid=9224293236>

National PTA recently endorsed the Mental Health in Schools Act of 2013, a bill that, if enacted, would increase access to mental health services and support for students and families. Recent tragedies across the nation have highlighted the need for improved access to mental health services. Nearly 70 percent of adolescents living with mental illness do not receive treatment. The American School Counselor Association recommends one school counselor for every 250 students, yet the national average during the 2010-11 school year was one counselor for every 471 students.

Here are some educational hot topics:

The following is taken from National PTA Emails:

2012 National PTA Public Policy Agenda and Executive Summary Now Available

Each year, National PTA publishes its top federal policy priorities and recommendations for Congress and the Administration. The 2013 agenda includes a new section on school safety, which features policy recommendations related to safe routes to school, anti-bullying efforts and gun violence prevention.

Website:

http://www.pta.org/advocacy/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3222&navItemNumber=556&utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=PTA_Takes_Action_Update_February_2013&utm_medium=email

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Proposed Min. Nutrition Standards for Competitive Foods

The promulgation of a proposed rule initiates a public comment period on school foods sold through vending machines, a la carte lines, and school stores. National PTA and its network of nearly 5 million parents and educators strongly supported the enactment of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which passed with bipartisan support in 2010. Its continued implementation, including the establishment of nutritional guidelines for competitive foods, is a top priority for National PTA.

Registration for the 2013 National PTA Legislative Conference Now Open

Taking place March 12-14, 2013 in Arlington, VA, the National PTA Legislative Conference brings PTA advocates to the nation's capital for comprehensive advocacy trainings, PTA policy issue debriefs, Congressional visits and more.

The following is taken from Ohio PTA "The News":

Youth Suicide Prevention HB543

Incorporates youth suicide awareness and prevention training into school district in-service training requirements. Materials are being provided to school districts free of charge through The Jason Foundation Inc. and other health providers.

Sequestration and American Taxpayer Relief Act (HR8)

HR8 passing has delayed the 8.2% across the board spending cuts (sequestration) until March if not changed.

Ohio PTA Recommends Wait On "Charitable Trust Act" Filing

The Attorney General's Office is not set up for organizations filing yet. PTA will forward information later.

Gov. Kasich's school-funding proposal (Budget Proposal HB59)— school district spreadsheets released (from OSBA-"Facts in a Flash")

The state Office of Budget and Management (OBM) released district-by-district spreadsheets simulating the dollars generated under the governor's school-funding proposal. (Note: FY 2013 base excludes funding for transportation as calculated for FY 2011 and the career technical education attributed funds).

spreadsheets by district: <http://jobsbudget.ohio.gov/documents/Preliminary-District.pdf>

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

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).