

# Advocacy Report

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>

## **Current Advocacy Update:**

**ACTION ALERT:** HB237 Delaying of Common Core. PTA opposes. Send an email from Advocacy “Issues and Legislation” Tab.

Note: Common Core Parent Guides available at: <http://www.ptacommoncore.org/>

### **Other Ohio Legislation Concerning Children (from Ohio PTA website):**

SB96 To require one unit of world history in the high school social studies curriculum.

SB42 school districts levy exclusively for school safety and security purposes.

SB21 Third-Grade Reading Guarantee.

SB15 General Assembly to determine cost of a high quality public primary and secondary education.

HB237 With respect to the Common Core Initiative academic standards and the distribution of student information.

HB228 To reform the system of funding elementary and secondary education.

HB215 To authorize a board of education or governing authority of a school to enter into an agreement with a volunteer who is a current or retired law enforcement officer to patrol school premises to prevent or respond to a mass casualty event.

HB193 To revise current high school diploma requirements including state-administered assessments.

HB181 To prohibit submission of a student's personal identifiable information to the federal government without direct authorization of the local school board.

HB167 To authorize school districts with an average daily membership greater than 60,000 and located in a city with a population greater than 700,000 to levy property taxes, the revenue from which may be shared with partnering community schools.

HB59 Operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015

HB32 Establish a minimum school year based on hours

HB18 With respect to metal detectors in public schools.

HB8 To revise the school safety laws.

**All of the above can be found on the Advocacy “Issues and Legislation” Tab with links to more information about each Bill**

Please contact me (Elise Fessler @ [bfing@cinci.rr.com](mailto:bfing@cinci.rr.com), HCC 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).