



NASSAU REGION 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Nassau Region PTA:

- supports the use of federal, state and local funds for public schools only
- opposes direct or indirect federal, state or local aid for non-public schools
- opposes diverting funds from elementary and secondary public schools for vouchers, charter schools, tuition tax credits and to fund unrelated federal and state interests
- supports legislation that would change the method of funding charter schools to eliminate any adverse impact on existing school districts and ensures charter school accountability

FUNDING FOR EDUCATION

Nassau Region PTA supports:

- education finance reform that provides a funding formula that is adequate, equitable, transparent, reliable and sustainable for ALL school districts, that provides the opportunity for EVERY child, including undocumented and unaccompanied children, to receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE)
- equitable funding for schools with consideration of regional cost factors
- timely, equitable, predictable, and sustained funding by the State of all education mandates, including New York State Next Generation Learning Standards professional development, Pre K, full-day kindergarten, English Language Learners (ELL) and Bi-lingual mandates
- the elimination of any state-imposed tax cap and the requirement for a supermajority vote on public school district budgets that disregard uncontrollable school cost drivers, create greater educational inequities and undermine the long-held principle of local control
- the exemption of Special Education and transportation from any State-imposed tax cap
- state aid of a minimum of 50% of total educational costs distributed equitably per student
- sustained funding that ensures optimal class size for all grade levels
- adequate and equitable funding for maintenance and modernization of school facilities
- funding by the State for parent training and workshops on all education mandates including New York State Next Generation Learning Standards
- funding for comprehensive tobacco education programs inclusive of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) and other vaping products

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Nassau Region PTA supports:

- equal opportunity for all students with special needs to reach their full potential
- the placement of special needs children based on data or research-based criteria, and in accordance with the mandated Individualized Education Program (IEP) in the least restrictive environment (LRE)
- the continuation of full funding of the federal commitment of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- mandatory inclusion of a checklist for Eligibility for the Compensatory Safety Net Option prior to and at all CSE/504 meetings, education of parents/caregivers of New York State Education Department (NYSED) options for students with disabilities to graduate with a local diploma.
- measuring the level of growth of students with special needs through a more appropriate academic assessment based on the student's cognitive and developmental level

EDUCATION

- Nassau Region PTA supports: mandatory full-day kindergarten for all children
- the right of all children residing in NYS, regardless of their immigration status, to have access to a quality public education
- assessments with flexible application to measure the achievement of New York State Next Generation Learning Standards
- opposition to linking components of APPR to student achievement based on high stakes state testing
- legislation that seeks waivers from federal and state mandates that allow for reduced restrictions on testing, including those for students with special needs and English Language Learners (ELL)
- sufficient time for professional development and creation of instructional materials for any new NYSED academic standards

FAMILY/SCHOOL/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Nassau Region PTA supports:

- effective and meaningful family/school partnerships in the decision-making process that are evaluated and assessed in accordance with the National PTA Standards
- enhancement of communication linking parent and teacher, home and school
- initiatives to include non-English speaking parents and families in the school community
- dissemination of information regarding mandated parent involvement policies
- leave for parents/primary caregivers to take children to health care providers, attend parent-teacher conferences, participate in school decision-making committees and attend school activities
- increased opportunities for parents/primary caregivers to become involved in community coalitions
- funding to establish the New York State Education Department Office of Family and Community Engagement

- raising awareness of age-appropriate and educationally sound LGBTQ affirming resources and support among students, families, school employees, and community members

INTERNET SAFETY

Nassau Region PTA supports:

- legislation, policies, and regulations that protect children and youth when using the internet, wireless devices and other forms of electronic communications including the use of their personal data
- programs to educate students, school district staff, school boards, parents and communities of the dangers of the internet for children and youth, including the risk of accessibility to drugs and predators
- felony status for the sale of alcoholic beverages via the internet to minors
- legislation requiring age verification for the sale of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, and vaping products via the internet

JUVENILE PROTECTION

Nassau Region PTA supports:

- strengthening and enforcing laws protecting children and youth from predators
- funding for the development and implementation of preventive strategies and safety measures to address the problem of school violence
- ongoing school violence prevention and crisis response training for school staff working directly with students. education of the school community to address violence including, but not limited to, gangs, guns, bullying, cyber-bullying, hazing, sexting
- collaboration between school, PTA and law enforcement agencies to establish uniform policies and practices to address school safety measures, school violence, bullying, gangs, alcohol, tobacco, and other drug activity in accordance with the Dignity for All Students Act
- funding for correctional, supervision and treatment services for the expansion of the juvenile justice system
- state and federal legislation and regulation that creates a safe, supportive and accepting environment in schools; specifying periodic training for educators and other school-related professionals in support of all students to increase sensitivity to LGBTQ students and their families

FUNDING FOR CHILD RELATED PROGRAMS

Nassau Region PTA supports:

- quality, affordable, accessible and accredited childcare, including school-based before and after school programs
- funding for community-based youth services programs
- establishment and funding of a Pre-K Technical Assistance Center for Long Island

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH INITIATIVES

Nassau Region PTA supports:

- compliance with comprehensive health and wellness policies for all students
- improving the nutritional choices in schools
- full compliance of the NYSED mandates for comprehensive HIV education for K-12 students
- compliance with state physical education standards
- eliminating tobacco and Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS) product advertising
- increased enforcement, fines and penalties for any unlawful sale of alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, and other drugs
- schools developing and enforcing comprehensive tobacco policies inclusive of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS)
- funding for affordable and accessible licensed substance use disorder prevention and treatment services
- increased access to life-saving overdose medication Naloxone
- the rightful authority of parents/guardians over a minor to obtain necessary assessments in order to secure and complete chemical/alcohol dependency treatment
- schools providing information on health care proxies to parents and those students turning 18 years of age
- banning Genetically Modified Food Products, also known as Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), Genetically Engineered Foods and Biofortified Products, in school foods, mandatory transparent labeling of all Genetically Modified Food Products, also known as Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), Genetically Engineered Foods and Biofortified Products.

National PTA Federal Public Policy Agenda: www.pta.org

New York State Legislative Priorities: www.nyspta.org

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