

Oregon PTA Legislative Platform 2024-2026



As presented to Board of Directors, February 3, 2024

The Oregon PTA Legislative Platform builds upon the goals and positions of the National PTA as laid out in National PTA's resolutions, position statements, policy priorities and other advocacy guidance.

As approved by the 2024 Oregon PTA State Convention, Oregon PTA works towards the following advocacy goals.

Full and Equitable Funding of Public Schools

A. School Funding

1. Full and equitable funding of public schools.
 - 1.1. Support legislative retention and use of “kicker” dollars to adequately fund public education, rather than returning overages to corporate and personal taxpayers.
 - 1.2. Support the use of lottery funds to improve the stability of equitable school funding.
 - 1.3. Support system development charges on new housing developments to help provide for construction of new school buildings or to acquire land and to generally provide safe and adequate public school facilities.
2. Stability of school revenue.
3. Local, state and federal funds for education will be appropriated only for publicly-controlled and tax-supported schools.
 - 3.1. Opposition to tuition tax credits, vouchers, choice/scholarships for the education of K-12 students outside of public school settings.
4. State and federal government maintain an adequate educational and funding commitment to children with special needs.

Creating Great Schools for All

B. School Governance

1. Agencies with responsibilities for the education, health or welfare of children and youth have:
 - 1.1. Clearly defined responsibilities.
 - 1.2. Provisions for adequate funding and structure to effectively meet legislative intent.

- 1.3. Provisions for review of administrative rules by the legislature and interested citizens.
2. All federal legislation concerned with education and child welfare includes provisions which respect state and local control.
3. Site-based decision making is empowered.
4. Federal funds for educational, health and welfare services for children and youth are distributed in coordination with appropriate state or local governmental boards or agencies (e.g., the Department of Education).
5. Federal and state legislation and regulations provide protection of the constitutional and civil rights of each individual.
6. Opposition to legislation that requires a specified percentage of legal voters participating in a school election or requires a supermajority vote to determine the results of a school election.
7. Equal quality of education throughout the state of Oregon.

C. Family Engagement

1. Families are included in all levels of education-related decision-making, with a focus on encouraging and promoting family engagement.
2. All employers –public and private - are encouraged to grant time for employees to volunteer and participate in children's school activities within the workday without any loss of income, stature, or job security.
3. Family involvement is recognized as a state and national education goal.

D. Welcoming, Supportive and Inclusive Learning Environment for All Students

1. Federal and state support of services for children ensure equalization of opportunities.
2. Equity in educational financing at all levels of government.
3. Adequate counseling and guidance services and/or school social worker programs at all levels.
4. School districts meet the needs of all children and youth.
5. Children and youth are protected from violence in schools.
6. Implementation of diverse and inclusive curricula.
7. Education of the whole child, including but not limited to art, music, technical education, critical thinking, decision-making and creative thinking.
8. Effective family focused, school-based interventions for children who are chronically absent.
9. Opposition to all legislative attempts to suppress information about family diversity and sexual orientation.
10. Children have tools, resources, and services to access social emotional learning.

E. Teacher development

1. Sufficient number of capable and qualified teachers for the education of Oregon children and youth.
2. Teacher evaluations are professional learning tools, and school districts provide effective professional development to promote excellence in the classroom.
3. Improved qualified teacher retention and diversification of the teaching workforce in Oregon.

F. Early Learning

1. Adequate investments for quality early learning programs.
2. Expansion of public schools' ability to provide quality early childhood education programs.

G. Higher Education

1. Adequate financial assistance for education beyond high school in publicly controlled, tax-supported institutions.

Protecting and Enhancing the Well-Being of Our Children

H. Basic Needs

1. Federal support to states for providing necessary public health and welfare services for all children and families.
2. End of hunger and homelessness among children and families in Oregon.
 - 2.1. Children and families have access to emergency food and sustainable food assistance.
3. Extension and support for research focusing on the needs of all children and families.
4. Adequate funding for the implementation of runaway, homeless youth and missing children programs, including programs to temporarily provide safe, secure shelters while families or appropriate agencies are contacted.

I. Health

1. Children and families receive public health and welfare services necessary for their physical and mental well-being.
2. Public health services and public health education opportunities are provided to all children and youth.
3. Healthy lifestyles and eating habits both at home and at school are promoted.
 - 3.1. Legislative policies promote healthy eating and lifestyle and access to the same for all children.
4. Children, pregnant women, and other family members have equal access to health care services and guarantee that children and youth get quality health care.

5. Full and adequate funding of necessary state services that benefit children, such as public agencies that provide children and family services, and other public programs including drug abuse prevention, and sexually transmitted infections prevention.
6. Legislative retention and use of “kicker” dollars, rather than returning overages to personal taxpayers, to fund needed and necessary state services that benefit children, such as schools, children and family services, drug and alcohol abuse and prevention programs, STI awareness, research, and prevention programs.

J. Gun safety

1. Legislation to improve safe storage of firearms and to ensure gun owners require training in the safe use and responsibility of gun ownership.

K. Legal and Illegal Drugs

1. Regulation of the manufacturing, advertising, or sale of products hazardous to children and youth (e.g., tobacco, alcohol).
2. Effective drug and substance misuse awareness, prevention, and treatment programs.
3. Legislation declaring that the advertising, sale, manufacture, delivery and/or possession of look-alike drugs be unlawful and urge and support legislation banning the manufacture, advertising, and sale of paraphernalia for use with illegal drugs)
4. Alcoholic beverage advertising on radio and TV is counteracted and eliminated.

L. Sexual and Reproductive Health

1. Prevention of teenage pregnancy.
2. Effective education regarding healthy relationships, consent, and body image.
3. Effective education and prevention programs for children and youth regarding HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.

M. Environmental Quality / Health Hazards

1. Protection of the ecological and environmental qualities of life necessary to the development of healthy and productive youth.
2. Mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.
3. Reduction of children's exposure to harmful substances such as lead, asbestos, radon, air pollution, and pesticides.
4. Public policy and funding options protecting children through the construction and retrofitting of seismically resilient schools.

N. Consumer Protection

1. Consumer protection for youth and families.
 - 1.1. Child safety programs for all areas of unintentional injury prevention.
 - 1.2. Increased safety for children and to help prevent unintentional injuries.

- 1.3. Legislation to require sale of anchoring kits with new furniture units, anchoring of furniture and televisions in public spaces, such as childcare centers, schools, and foster care facilities, and to prohibit sale of furniture that does not meet anti-tip safety standards.

O. Child Protection

1. States agencies and localities develop and fund educational and prevention programs to protect children from physical, sexual, mental, and emotional abuse or neglect.
2. Legislation relating to child labor protects the education, health, safety, and welfare of young people.

P. Safe and Positive Media Experiences

1. Support appropriate media programming for children and youth.
2. Strengthen online privacy protections for children and youth.
3. Expand broadband access and enhance digital infrastructure to ensure equity.
4. Increase awareness, including research, of the impact of technology on children and strengthen digital literacy skills for children and families.
5. Address threats to the safety and well-being of children that can happen online, such as cyberbullying, exploitation, criminal activity and violence.

Q. Juvenile Justice

1. Prevention of juvenile delinquency and promotion of alternatives to institutionalization.
2. Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups.
3. Adequate funding for the implementation of juvenile justice.
4. Adequate protection and care for juvenile victims of crimes.