



PTA Advocacy

The PTA was founded to advocate for children, as stated in the PTA's mission: *To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to **advocate** for all children.*

What is meant by "Advocacy"?

- Speaking up about issues: Actively supporting a cause, idea, or policy for your child, school, district, local community, state, or the country.
- Speaking to and informing the people who can impact these issues: Educators, school board members, community leaders, state legislators, members of Congress, the Governor, or even the President.
- Educating others who may be affected by these issues:
 - The 70% of residents who do not have children enrolled in our schools.
 - Family members, other parents, school and district staff, or community members that you can engage about the problem and who can help in creating a solution.

What can PTA members do to become better informed about issues?

- Get trained: Attend council and region trainings and the Colorado PTA Convention.
- Be informed: Visit the Colorado PTA website (www.copta.org) and the National PTA website (www.pta.org) – in particular, click on the "Advocacy" links.
- Be represented: Assign a member of your PTA to be a liaison to your School Accountability Committee.
- Learn what's happening:
 - Take an active interest in key issues affecting children and youth.
 - Be an informed voter.
 - Attend school board meetings and/or be aware of district policies.
 - Attend meetings of the District Accountability Committee.
 - Get on email distribution lists for legislative action alerts, and/or join organizations that advocate on children's issues, such as:
 - ✓ <http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/newsletter-signup>
 - ✓ <https://www.greateducation.org/get-involved/updates/>
 - Know how elected officials representing you vote on key issues, and visit with some of them.
 - Attend some candidate forums, issue forums, and/or public meetings sponsored by your elected officials.
- Get an advocate on your board: Appoint someone to be your local unit's Advocacy Liaison – and be sure to give that person some time on the agenda.
- Get involved: Attend meetings of the Colorado PTA Legislative Committee and the annual Colorado PTA Legislative Conference.