



A Word From CO PTA President, Nora Brown

Dear PTA leaders,

I know nothing is normal, but we are all trying our best to make things work. Your dedication to your families, students, and schools helps everyone through these challenging times. Whatever you can do to reach out and show your families and schools that you care and are trying to connect and build community is valuable. We are creating new resources and trainings to help you reimagine PTA this year. One great way is our Zooming in Membership forums to learn what other PTAs are doing and to share ideas. Another great program is the Reflections art program, providing a way for students to express their feelings through the arts. This year's theme is "I Matter Because..." [Check our website for information, forms, and deadlines.](#)

October is Colorado Family and School Partnership in Education Month! Remind your principals, teachers, district administration, and school boards how important it is to be inclusive and allow our families and communities to have impactful engagement for our students.

Through our partnership with McDonalds, we are offering four **\$100 Teacher Awards** to show our teachers how thankful we are. The nominations are due by Oct. 30th so awards can be announced in time for Thanksgiving!

October is also **Parent Teacher Conference** time! Now more than ever it is important to encourage all families and teachers to work together for our students' best educational experiences.

Have you checked out [National PTA's Notes from the Backpack podcasts](#)? These short discussions cover topics all parents can relate to and learn from – especially now. Have a great fall! Remember to vote – there are important education issues on the ballot!

We are here for you if you need any help!

Together we are PTA: for every child – one awesome voice!

Nora Brown

Colorado PTA President

PTA mission: *to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.*

Membership Matters!

Join us as we highlight PTA Success Stories, Membership Tips, and Ideas to Grow Your PTA. This is a great opportunity to learn from others and to share with other PTA members. All are welcome! [Click here to register!](#)

ZIM event dates:
October 14th 6:30 pm
November 11th 6:30
February 10th 6:30 pm



We know there is a lot going on during the start of the semester but don't forget to submit your PTA Officers List. This way you will not miss any news from CO PTA, have access to National PTA e-learning, and be able to set up your Memberhub site to help track your membership and communications.

Submit your list here
<https://bit.ly/3fKGYtc>

Stress

The **American Institute of Stress** has created [15 tips to help parents](#) talk to their children, answer questions, minimize stress, and mitigate their own anxiety about the virus. The New York Times [shared tips for helping teens](#) adjust to their new dynamics. **Our teachers are brave and ready but need our support now more than ever.** Consider attending school board meetings to find out how COVID funding is being directed, and advocate for any unmet needs to help keep our teachers and students safe. And last but possibly most importantly: send small gifts or notes of appreciation to your child's teachers. They are under immense stress, and a simple positive note and word of encouragement could help them get through these days.

COVID 19 Resources

[COVID-19 Resources](#) for parents & kids - info on food access, kid-friendly home activities, and more

Tips to Help Children Wear Masks

As schools begin to reopen, kids find themselves interacting more on playgrounds and physically distanced get-togethers are becoming more common. That makes it critical for children older than 2 to wear a mask when they are around others outside the household. Data shows that [wearing a mask can save lives](#), and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of COVID-19 cases could drastically be reduced if everyone wore a mask.

Saying a child should wear a mask and actually having them wear one consistently and correctly, though, can be two very different things. There are lots of distractions in children's lives, and it's easy for them to overlook the need for—or the importance of—wearing a mask. Dr. Osbourne-Roberts offers three key pieces of advice:

Get a well-fitting, comfortable mask. Every child's face is different, and because of that, there is no one right mask for all children. The important thing is that the mask is secure, meaning it hooks under the child's chin and comes up to the mid-bridge of the nose. If a mask is sliding off the nose or constricting the face in any way, that is a no-go, Dr. Osbourne-Roberts said.

Let children get involved in picking their own mask. One way to help kids be more excited to wear a mask is to let them help pick out the mask's design. When children are involved in the mask selection process, they become more invested and interested in wearing it.

Listen to children. This can sometimes be the most challenging step. If a child is saying a mask is not comfortable, it's important to listen and determine whether there is something about the mask that is indeed causing a problem.

Mask talk often opens up more conversation. It's important for parents and physicians to talk with children about mask wearing and its impact because it is a way to get children involved in their own health, said Dr. Osbourne-Roberts. This also is a way to get children talking about the pandemic and what they understand about it. These conversations not only showcase what kids are thinking or feeling, but they can also indicate additional worries, fears and anxieties they face

Results of the 2019 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey are now available on [the CDPHE Dashboard](#)

Suicide Prevention

Support is now available at Child Mind Institute: Staying alert to warning signs and talking openly with kids about how they're feeling is more important now than ever. To mark the start of **National Suicide Prevention Month**, CMI is providing resources to help families keep children safe, such as [risk factors](#) and [signs of trouble](#), as well as [ways to support kids](#) and [encourage them to get help](#).

The **Suicide Prevention Coalition** of Jefferson, Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties recently made available online several Suicide Prevention and Support resources, including a **Suicide Attempt Survivor Support Packet**, **Suicide Loss Survivor Support**, and a **Support Person**

Packet: <http://suicidepreventioncoalitionjccg.org/>

Substance Use and Abuse

A new **CDC feature article** looks at the problem of youth **e-cigarette** use. The U.S. Surgeon General has called e-cigarette use by young people an **epidemic**, but there are things everyone can do to reduce the harms of e-cigarette use by youth. Many things drive this epidemic. One is nicotine addiction, and new e-cigarette types let users inhale even more nicotine. Another is advertising, which uses animations, celebrities, and young actors to appeal to youth. Fortunately, there are proven ways to help reduce use of e-cigarettes by youth. Teachers, coaches, and health care workers can talk to young people about the **harms of e-cigarettes**. Parents and caregivers can set a good example by making the home smoke-free.

Rise Above Colorado is an impactful drug abuse prevention organization that measurably impacts teen perceptions and attitudes about the risks of substance abuse by empowering youth to make healthy choices. The Rise Above Colorado Teen Action Council created a website with interactive features to support teens' wellness and potential.

Health and Nutrition

Chef Ann Foundation recently launched new [Chef Ann Foundation](#) and [The Lunch Box](#) websites with new content, resources, and an enhanced user experience. Examples of new areas to explore:

Why School Food Matters - learn why school food is so important for the next generation.



Business Partner Opportunities

We are Thankful for YOU!

We want to honor a deserving teacher in your life! We know how much teachers have on their plate this year with the shift in learning options for their students. If you have a teacher you know has gone above and beyond in their job, please email the following to Debbie Fitzgerald at debbie@fitzgeraldpetersen.com

- your name & contact information
- his/her name
- school and school address
- principal's name
- a short paragraph about what makes the teacher special

The deadline for entries is October 30. We will honor 4 of the teachers nominated (picked randomly) with a \$100 gift card and free McDonald's food coupons. Awards will be presented prior to Thanksgiving.

Penguinaut! Virtual Story Reading & Book Giveaway

McDonald's has a partnership with One Book Colorado, a program to ensure books get into the hands of elementary age children. McDonald's has a collection of *Penguinaut!* books to give to YOUR classroom. Sign up NOW for a virtual story reading to a classroom at your school, which includes free books for the entire class.

To sign up for YOUR reading, contact Debbie Fitzgerald by emailing her at debbie@fitzgeraldpetersen.com



Reminders

IRS 990 FILING

All units must file the appropriate IRS Form 990 (990N – e-postcard, 990EZ, or 990). Deadline to file is the 15th day of the 5th month after your fiscal year ends (for example: file by Nov 15 if your fiscal year ends June 30).

- ▶ To file a 990N online (your gross receipts are less than \$50,000), go to <https://sa.www4.irs.gov/epostcard/>. If this is your first time, you will need to create an account. Make sure and record your User ID and password! Here's a [how to file 990 N video](#).
- ▶ A copy of the IRS Form 990 filing must be mailed or emailed to the Colorado PTA office. If filing a 990N, please email a copy of the accepted filing. Need to file for an extension? Provide Colorado PTA office with documentation of the extension. Contact your [region director](#), [council](#), or [state office](#) with any questions, concerns, and assistance.

AIM INSURANCE - Due November 1

- ▶ Purchase general liability, bonding, and director/ officer liability insurance. Your unit may take advantage of Colorado PTA's group buying power and reduce your costs by selecting AIM as your insurance company.
- ▶ You should have gotten information directly from AIM and paid them directly.
- ▶ If you select a different company, please send proof of insurance to the PTA state office.

Get Involved in Advocacy



Nominations for Colorado PTA

Hey Colorado PTA members, would you or someone you know be a great addition to the Colorado PTA Board of Directors? We are looking for nominations of highly motivated and qualified individuals to run for the 2021-2023 Officer and Director positions. Please submit this nomination form by October 16, 2020.. [To find out more about the open positions or to nominate yourself or someone else, please click here:](#)

Open Positions:

- President-elect
- VP of Convention
- VP of Field Services
- VP of Marketing and Communications:
- Treasurer
- Secretary

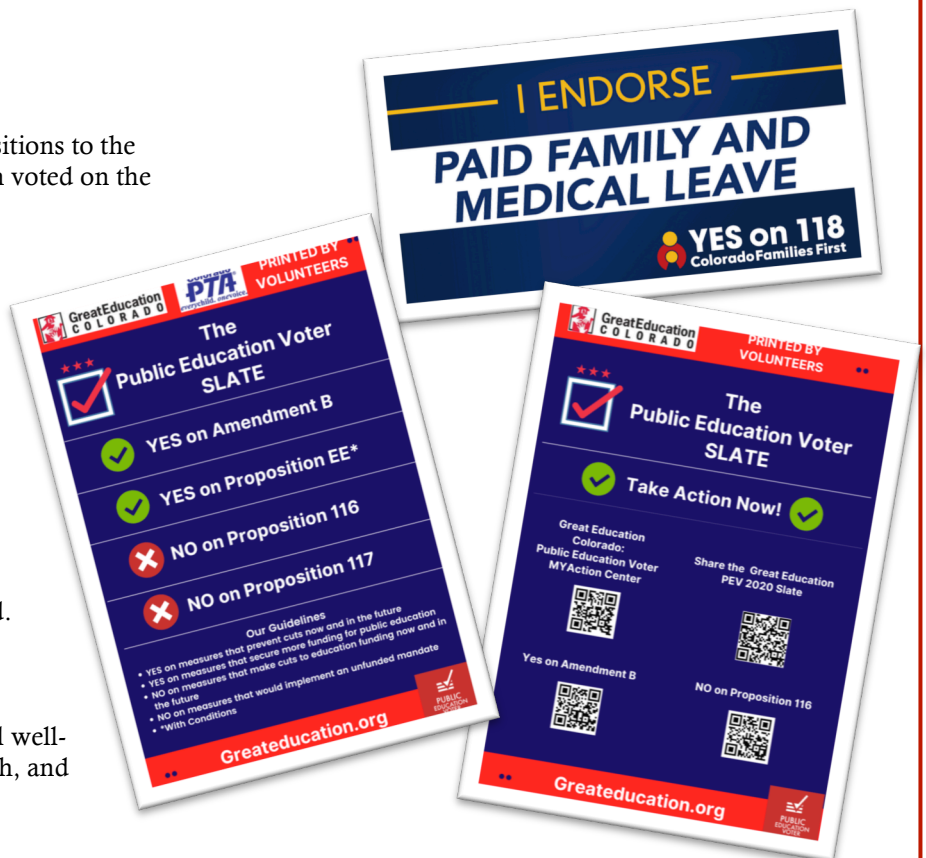
Register to Vote

With a big election coming up, now is the time for our members to do all they can to help PTA accomplish our mission of advocating for children and youth. The first thing is to make sure you are registered to vote (or that your registration is up to date). Go to www.GoVoteColorado.gov to register or update your registration and ensure that you receive a ballot in the mail.

Vote the PTA Way!

The legislative committee recommended positions to the Colorado PTA Board of Directors, who then voted on the slate of support. The next step is for all members to advocate our positions on ballot issues, which we took based on our support for the following:

- Adequate state funding to local school districts and higher education for students in pre-kindergarten through post-secondary education.
- Safeguarding all resources and revenues designated for education, and full funding of Amendment 23 (Article IX, Section 17 of the State Constitution), as the voters intended.
- Laws providing necessary services, policies, and requirements for the support of the general good health, nutritional, and physical and mental well-being of all Colorado children, youth, and their families.



Save the Date!

Legislative Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month, May through December, and adds an additional meeting on the 4th Monday, January through April. Join us by conference call. Click [here](#) to learn more about this committee, or send an email, legislative@copta.org

Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee meets 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Join us by conference call. Click [here](#) to learn more about this committee, or send an email, HWS@copta.org

BALLOT ISSUES AND LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

VOTE YES on Amendment B, Repeal Property Tax

Assessment Rates – Without the permanent freeze on residential property tax assessment rates that Amendment B will provide by repealing the Gallagher Amendment, the rates will drop next year from 7.15% to 5.88% and cause a \$246 million drop in formula funding to school districts, which the state will have to backfill; a \$490 million drop in district revenues overall, including mill levy overrides and bonds; and a \$203 million drop for local governments. The state does not have the revenue to backfill K-12, because even after years of slow progress in catching up to funding levels prior to the Great Recession, Colorado has now fallen \$1.2 billion behind its Constitutional obligation to maintain and increase K-12 school funding (through the “budget stabilization factor”). And Colorado’s already underfunded public schools are facing another \$500 million in budget cuts next year due to the pandemic. Dire financial consequences are ahead if Amendment B doesn’t pass.

VOTE YES on Proposition EE, Tobacco and E-Cigarette

Tax Increase for Health and Education – Colorado’s teen vaping rate is the highest in the country, yet vaping and nicotine products are not taxed in the same way as cigarettes. Raising the price of tobacco and vape will encourage users to quit and discourage price-sensitive teens from ever starting. Revenue from the tobacco-vape tax will provide \$375 million for K-12 education over the next 2.5 years – including \$90 million earmarked for rural schools. The tax will also provide \$2 billion over 10 years to support universal preschool. Currently the Colorado Preschool Program has funding to serve only 40% of eligible children and is among the lowest funded preschool program in the country. Proposition EE will fund 10 hours per week of free preschool for all children in Colorado before their first year in kindergarten, starting in 2023.

VOTE NO on Proposition 116, Decrease State Income Tax

Rate – With the “budget stabilization factor” underfunding schools at \$1.2 billion, another \$500 million in budget cuts expected due to the pandemic, and the pandemic placing more students in poverty, increasing the need for mental health support and high-quality technology, and making exceptional demands on educators, students and their families are already being severely impacted. The permanent tax rate reduction from Proposition 116 would cost the state about \$350 million

next year, while saving the average taxpayer in Colorado only about \$40, and yet saving the wealthiest Coloradans between \$200 and \$800. At a time when more cuts will need to be made to balance the state budget, taking more money away to give mainly to the wealthy does not make sense.

VOTE NO on Proposition 117, Require Voter Approval for Certain New Enterprises

– While this measure has no direct economic impact on the state budget, to the extent that it causes policymakers to create fewer state enterprises, it will decrease state government services, potentially shifting a portion of economic activity from the public sector to the private sector. The state has used enterprise funds to fill budget gaps in the past, and there are very few other budget “workarounds” available because of TABOR. Proposition 117 is an attempt to put up more obstacles for keeping state services adequately funded.

VOTE YES on Proposition 118, Paid Family and Medical

Leave – Proposition 118 would implement a state-run family and medical leave program for up to 12 weeks of leave. To fund the program, the measure requires employers and employees to pay a 0.9% “payroll premium” (tax) directly from employee wages – like a FICA tax; businesses with fewer than 10 employees won’t have to pay anything, but their employees would still be covered. The average employee would pay only \$4.50/week. Currently, 4 out of 5 Colorado employees do not have access to any family or medical leave. Workers who need it the most often are the ones without this benefit. For the average worker, this benefit pays for itself if it is used once in a 40-year career. There are 8 other states that have this program, and the results show that

employers have increased retention and morale, while employees no longer must make an impossible choice between their families and their jobs.



Many of you have asked about purchasing insurance when you aren't planning events this year. AIM insurance has provided the following information:

How could there be a loss if we aren't having in person events?

Crime- Whether PTA's are collecting money through virtual events or protecting funds from previous periods, there is still a huge need to protect your funds. And in challenging economic times, Embezzlement is a very significant risk.

Directors & Officers -D&O protects the decisions you make as an officer or director. Virtual events hold the very same liability as in person events, as officers are making no fewer decisions, and are possibly subject to even more scrutiny as we navigate a very challenging pandemic/quarantine time. It should be noted that someone can sue you just because they disagree and even in the case of frivolous lawsuits the D&O steps in to defend.

EX: PTA conducts a virtual fundraiser and officers decide to spend the money on school laptops instead of playground equipment and a parent sues. Or vice versa, in the times of COVID someone could decide that purchasing playground equipment was

inappropriate and that money should have been spent on laptops.

General Liability -Having any type of event, whether in person or virtual, creates liability. Also, the General Liability includes \$5,000 per person in accident medical. So if a volunteer is injured preparing or conducting a virtual event, the accident medical covers them.

EX: Zoom Yoga class- There is an instructor guiding children on yoga poses. It's a PTA event and if a child hurts themselves, the PTA could be held liable.

Property - Property covers the personal property of the PTA such as fundraising merchandise, popcorn machines etc. Whether your PTA is fundraising virtually- selling spirit wear, conducting online auctions- or your PTA has event equipment being stored, the property coverage protects have access to any family or medical leave. Workers who need it the most often are the ones without this benefit. For the average worker, this benefit pays for itself if it is used once in a 40

National PTA Support

Access [National PTA resources](#) to help you learn the basics of running your PTA unit. Find just about everything you need as a local PTA leader, including guidance to help you:

- select and work with your board
- formulate your PTA calendar of programs and events
- navigate unique financial challenges of a 501(c)(3)
- grow your PTA membership
- choose and organize a PTA fundraiser
- communicate with your school community and more!

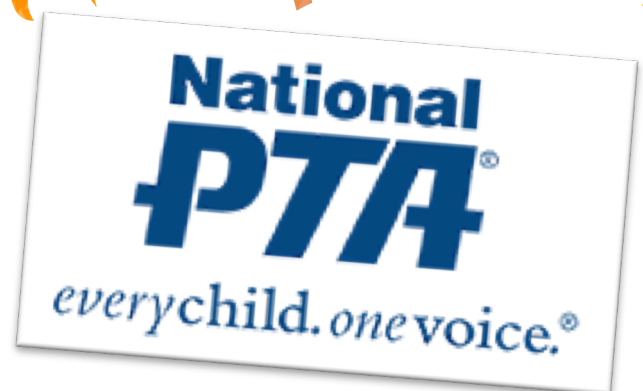
These tools and templates, online resources and training courses will inform your work as you establish your PTA and volunteer roles and throughout the year.

PTA Podcast

Season 3 of our award-winning podcast has launched! New this year, we're [creating toolkits](#) to help you spread the word about each episode. First up on *Notes from the Backpack*, we're chatting with Newberry Award-winning author Kwame Alexander about

PTA Position on Inclusive Curricula

The NPTA Board of Directors has approved a position statement on Inclusive Curricula in K-12 education. In part, the statement states, "National PTA believes that culturally and linguistically responsive teaching and learning, and inclusive curricula are imperative in building socially competent and aware children and youth, enhancing their intellectual capability and psychosocial well-being." You can find the position statement at <https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/pta-positions/Individual-Position-Statements/position-statement---inclusive-curricula-in-k-12-education>



National PTA publishes five e-newsletters that reach a combined audience of more than 325,000 PTA leaders, parents, teachers and students. [Sign-up to receive one today](#)

