

Colorado PTA®

everychild. onevoice.

A Word from CO PTA President Nora Brown

Dear PTA/PTSA members,

The annual Colorado PTA Convention is coming April 17-18 [Register Now!](#) This year's convention is all virtual, so you can join us for exciting workshops and inspiring speakers from the comfort of your home for just \$30! Join fellow parents and educators for discussions on the mental health impacts of COVID on our students; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; engaging families in our schools; and how to advocate for you and your student, to name just a few of the topics. Hear from amazing speakers, like Gerardo Muñoz, the Colorado Teacher of the Year! Learn about what PTA has to offer and how to prepare for a very important upcoming school year. PTA is a critical piece in bringing our families and schools together for a stronger public education system – and you are THE KEY to making that happen! See below for more information and how to register.

Colorado PTA just held our [Reflections Cultural Arts Program Awards Ceremony](#) on March 14th. This year's theme was "I Matter Because..." and as always, our student artists created amazing artwork in visual arts, photography, literature, music composition, dance choreography, and film production. We were so proud to provide the opportunity for our students to express themselves through the arts and to recognize their talent. Congratulations to all our students! Learn more about the [program](#) and how your student can participate next year! Colorado PTA also has been advocating on your behalf in Washington DC. Through virtual meetings, we discussed critical needs for our students and schools with most of our federal legislators involving COVID relief, school nutrition programs, school infrastructure, family/community engagement, and safe/equitable disciplinary procedures. PTA was there for you and your children – "Every child. One Voice"

Check out our awesome new [website](#) for valuable information! I look forward to seeing you all – via Zoom - at our convention! Together we are PTA: for every child – one awesome voice!

Nora Brown
Colorado PTA President

PTA Reflections

Congratulations to this year's award winners. We are also looking forward to next year! The 2021-2022 National Reflections theme is: "I Will Change the World By..."



CO PTA Convention

Colorado PTA Convention
We are excited to announce that the 99th Annual Colorado PTA Convention will be held April 17-18, 2021 VIRTUALLY!!!

Our engaging workshop offerings this year include:

- Member Hub
- Kids Financing
- Digital Learning
- Suicide Prevention
- Meeting in A Digital Way
- Big "A" in Advocacy
- Membership in the Fall
- Standards of Affiliation
- President Training
- Advocating for Healthy Kids
- Treasurer Training
- Fundraising in a Digital World
- The Parent's Voice at School
- Digital Learning
- Secretary/Bylaws
- PTA 101
- Reflections
- Supporting our Students Coming Out of a Pandemic

PLUS, we will elect and install our 2021-2023 Colorado PTA Officers and vote on Colorado PTA bylaws amendments! [CLICK HERE](#) to register today! The **FIRST 100 registrants** will receive a "Spy Box" full of exciting items and a convention t-shirt!

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!



National PTA Podcast

A Podcast for Parents, by Parents

PTA is working to ensure our public schools provide a high-quality and equitable education for every child to reach their full potential. *Notes from the Backpack* is a PTA podcast designed for millions of parents and the decisionmakers they influence.

Through the unique combination of expert, parent and educator guests, each episode features engaging conversations that offer real-life advice and ideas on how to support children's learning and development—all in parent-friendly language.

Listen [HERE](#).

Great Education Colorado

Great Education Colorado is a nonprofit organization dedicated to driving educational excellence for all Colorado students through grassroots activism.

- What does the American Rescue Plan mean to Colorado schools?
- What's going on with Colorado's teacher shortage?
- What does the future funding of Colorado's schools look like -- and can we do anything about it?

You've got questions, we've got answers (or, at least, solid information). You can schedule a virtual presentation (or maybe even an in-person fall presentation) from Colorado PTA's partner Great Education Colorado by clicking [HERE](#).

Membership/ Field Service

As part of your PTA membership, you can sign up for National PTA e-Newsletters. Be the first to hear about National PTA's advocacy efforts, grant opportunities and parenting advice.

Advocacy Insider

Receive monthly news about legislative issues affecting education, National PTA's policy priorities and activities!

Leadership Briefing

Receive monthly updates with the latest PTA programs, resources and leadership training!

Our Children Magazine

Get the latest parenting, wellness and family fun articles from National PTA's magazine!

Weekend Update

Get weekly updates with announcements, offers, deadlines and grant opportunities!

Sign up here: <https://member.pta.org/Member-Login/Email-Signup>

2021 Teacher of the Year to Speak at the CO PTA Convention

The 2021 Colorado Teacher of the Year Gerardo Muñoz will speak at our convention this year. Mr. Muñoz teaches high school and middle school social studies at the Denver Center for International Studies at Baker in Denver. During his 21 years as an educator, Muñoz has been involved in a number of programs, initiatives, campaigns and organizations to promote equity and antiracism, including EduColor, Choose the National Education Association's Racial and Social Justice Conference, and the University of Colorado's Teachers of Color and Allies Summit. Muñoz has taught middle and high school students at DCIS for 14 years. Come hear his inspiring words about teaching today





Colorado PTA Advocates Nationally

Colorado PTA Legislative Committee

The Colorado [PTA Legislative Committee](#) normally meets on both the 2nd and 4th Mondays from January through April, during the annual session of the State Legislature (Colorado General Assembly), and on the 2nd Mondays during the other months.

Anyone interested in joining meetings of the committee who is not already receiving messages about them should contact Evie Hudak, Public Policy Director, at legislative@copta.org to receive announcements from the committee. PTA members who attend 3 or more meetings per year are entitled to vote at the meetings. Every PTA Council is supposed to have a Legislative Chair and every PTA local unit is supposed to have an Advocacy Liaison. These are the people who automatically receive information from the Legislative Committee with the agenda, minutes, and other relevant committee information.

PTA's Position on School Reopening

The Colorado PTA Board of Directors approved a position statement on School Reopening and COVID. In brief, the statement includes the following:

- Recommends that school buildings remain closed during the COVID-19 pandemic unless they are open in accordance with all public health guidelines.
- Urges state and federal government officials to provide funding for improvements that allow conformance with public health guidelines and funding for reliable broadband internet access.
- Advocates for high-quality remote learning options to be available for all students and families.
- Supports parents, educators, and students having input and involvement in decision-making for school reopening.

Parent Advocacy Network

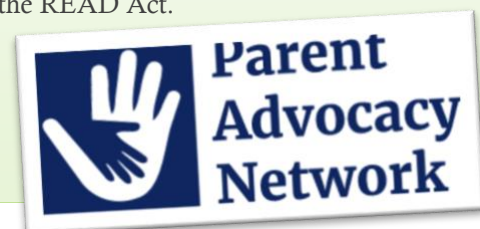
CO PTA is working with our partners: Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB), Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE), the Colorado Rural Schools Alliance, and Colorado Education Association (CEA) to convene a Parent Advocacy Network. We need you — the parents/guardians/teachers who are ready to learn and eager to take action. Fill out [this sign-up form](#) --

The Network is focused on these three bills that all associations are in agreement with:

- Pause statewide CMAS Testing for the Spring of 2021,
- Conduct a third-party audit of our State Accreditation System, and
- Give teachers one more year to complete important course work required by the READ Act.

Remaining Parent Advocacy Network one-hour virtual meetings:

- Thursday, April 1, 2021, 5:00-6:00 pm, Zoom
- Thursday, April 15, 2021, 5:00-6:00 pm, Zoom
- Thursday, April 29, 2021, 5:00-6:00 pm, Zoom



Health Wellness and Safety for All Schools

Online Resources

COVID-19 Resources for Schools: latest guidance from CDE: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/safeschools>

Healthy Schools Campaign new policy brief, "Providing Health Services During School Closures: Lessons Learned & Recommendations for Action".

American Heart Association Voices for Healthy Kids 2021 Racial Equity in Public Policy Message Guide:

Key messages & tips for advocates to use to advance the conversation on racial equity, link racial inequity and structural racism to policy, & obtain support for specific racial equity language in the policy. The intention of the Guide is to advance both equitable policies & conversations about structural racism.

[Click here to access the Message Guide.](#)

COVID-19 Impact on Mental Health & How Communities Can Move Forward. [recording of the webinar and download the slides here.](#) Materials requested related to the webinar: [MHA's Online Screening Tools](#); [MHA's 2020 Screening Data Analysis](#); [MHA's COVID-19 Hub](#); [MHA's State of Mental Health in America Report](#); [The How Right Now Campaign](#); [CDC Foundation's CBO Resource Page](#)

Truth Initiative: [A toxic, plastic problem: E-cigarette waste and the environment](#)

Almost half (49.1%) of young people don't know what to do with used e-cigarette pods and disposable devices, according to Truth Initiative research conducted in 2020. The environmental consequences of e-cigarette waste are enormous.



Upcoming Educational Events

Navigating Substance Abuse in Teens (NSET):

twelvetales.com/workshops

Free, 2-hr monthly workshop in English 1st Wed 6-8pm & Spanish 2nd Wed 5:30-8:30pm – information & support for parents/caregivers with teen experimenting with alcohol, marijuana, vaping and other substances

QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer suicide prevention trainings coordinated by Jefferson Center (supported by a Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention grant, funded by the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to support suicide prevention work):

- miércoles, 21 de abril de 2021 a partir de las 5:00p.m.- 6:30p.m. en español: <https://qpr042121.eventbrite.com>

- Thursday, April 29, 2021 from 9:00a.m. – 10:30a.m. in English: <https://qpr042921.eventbrite.com>

- Wednesday, May 26, 2021 from 11:00a.m. – 12:30p.m. in English: <https://qpr052621.eventbrite.com>

- Tuesday, June 22, 2021 from 9:00a.m. – 10:30a.m. in English: <https://qpr062221.eventbrite.com>

The Colorado PTA Health Wellness and Safety Committee

Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., excluding April, June, July, and December. Please check with HWS@copta.org for questions regarding the schedule. Join us by conference call. [Click here](#) to learn more about this committee, or send an email, HWS@copta.org.