

**Colorado
PTA®**
everychild. onevoice.

THE
CHILDREN'S
VOICE



A message from Colorado PTA President Staci Ruddy

Please click on the links below to access messages from Colorado PTA President Staci Ruddy <https://youtu.be/LX0X5Sr2PSU>

Join PTA in celebrating **Hispanic Heritage Month!**

Did you know PTA has an entire section of resources in Spanish? Please visit [PTA.org](https://pta.org) to view and download them!

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Check out this article in *Our Children* magazine on strategies to be more inclusive of Hispanic families in PTA (<https://ptaourchildren.org/ptahispanicfamilies/>)



Save the Date for Convention

**Colorado PTA Annual
Convention**
Friday, April 1 – 3, 2022
DoubleTree - Denver Tech Center



I Belong

Save the Date!

Health Wellness and Safety Committee

Oct. 20, 10:30 a.m.
Via zoom, contact
HWS@copta.org
for information

Legislative Committee

Oct. 11, 6:30 p.m.
Via Zoom, contact
office@copta.org for
information

Convention Committee

Oct. 22, 6:00 p.m.
Via zoom contact
convention@copta.org
for information

ADVOCACY, PTA'S MAIN MISSION

PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by advocating for all children. "Big A Advocacy" is our central focus in this month's newsletter, because...

October is election month!

Colorado is a state that offers mail-in voting, so even though technically November 2, 2021, is Election Day, everyone who is registered to vote by mid-October will receive a ballot in the mail in October. If you are not registered by then, you can still go to a location in your county to register and vote in person. All the information you need can be found here:

<https://www.vote.org/state/colorado/> or here: <https://www.vote411.org/colorado>

This fall's ballot has two things that are very important to PTA: school board elections and statewide ballot issues affecting school funding. It is essential that PTA members become informed about what is on the ballot and that all eligible PTA members VOTE.



Big A Advocacy:

Listen to what Staci Ruddy, our COPTA President, and Lisa Weil, COPTA board member, Director at-Large, have to say about "Big A Advocacy" at https://youtu.be/riF_kF-rvSc.



School board elections:

It is vital that PTA members pay attention to who is running for school board in their district, because Colorado has extensive "local control" by school boards over curriculum, hiring, policies, and school buildings. The seats on school boards are staggered, so about half the seats are up every odd-numbered year. As a 501c3 nonprofit organization, PTA is somewhat restricted in what it can do regarding these elections. We CANNOT support or oppose candidates, but we CAN provide information to our members about the candidates who are running. See our [PTA Guidelines for School Board Elections](#) for important details.

This year's statewide ballot issues:

PTA is OPPOSED to the three statewide ballot issues that will be voted on this year. PTAs need to be sure they follow the law in regard to informing members about PTA's positions on these issues. See our [PTA Guidelines for Ballot Issues](#) for details.

Here is a brief summary of PTA's positions on the ballot issues:

- ☒ **NO VOTE NO on Proposition 119, Learning Enrichment and Academic Progress.** This initiative (originally identified as Initiative 25 – see the [article in the August edition](#) for more information) would rob at least \$21 million per year from school funding. It would basically be a "voucher" because it would use public tax money to fund a private agency providing private outside-of-school programs. It is unnecessary, because the state has already received a significant amount of federal funds to provide extra help to deal with learning loss from the pandemic. The new agency would have no oversight by school districts or the Colorado Department of Education. It would intrude on privacy for the families that desire to access the program and for school districts that would be forced to share data with the private agency.
- ☒ **NO VOTE NO on Proposition 120, Property Tax Assessment Rate Reduction.** This initiative would reverse the adjustments to property tax assessment rates made by Amendment B in last year's election, which was approved by nearly two-thirds of Colorado voters. It would slash local government revenue by over \$1 billion annually through lowering property tax rates, which would affect schools, police, and fire protection, among other services. It would also create a confusing clash with property tax law passed through [SB21-293](#).
- ☒ **NO VOTE NO on Amendment 78, Legislative Authority for Spending State Money.** This ballot measure would transfer the power to allocate "custodial funds" from the executive branch (Governor, State Treasurer, and heads of state departments and agencies) solely to our part-time State Legislature. "Custodial funds" means money from a source other than the state taxes received by the state for a particular purpose, such as federal grants. It would result in delayed or reduced public services such as the use of grant funding for schools, like the emergency relief grants to deal with the pandemic.

Our ADVOCACY is stronger with every new member!

Membership reports are due on October 1!!

Please complete your [membership report](#) and submit it to Colorado PTA via MemberHub (contact the office at 303-420-7820 if you need help). The deadline is October 1, but if you miss this, send it in as soon as possible thereafter.

Use MemberHub!

MemberHub
Training Series
for PTAs



Colorado PTA is now using MemberHub to assist local units in keeping track of their members, submitting dues to COPTA, and doing other important record-keeping and communication.

How to submit PTA dues through MemberHub:

<https://support.memberhub.com/hc/en-us/articles/360006895253-How-to-Pay-Your-State-Dues-in-MemberHub>

How to upload a Membership List in MemberHub:

<https://support.memberhub.com/hc/en-us/articles/360052946673-Member-Import-Tool-for-Local-Units>

How to submit dues collected outside of MemberHub (see Membership section):

<https://copta.org/officers/>

Help us recruit new members!

Colorado PTA is committed to helping units recruit members who are new to PTA. We are encouraging units to present our [PowerPoint on Membership Recruitment](#) to introduce them to PTA. Elementary schools should focus on the kindergarten parents, as an example. Some of these parents are new to the public school system and probably unfamiliar with PTA. The information in the presentation will open their eyes to the benefits of PTA.

There is a zip drive available to all units with all kinds of recruiting and membership information. Please contact the office to have one mailed to your unit (please only request 1 per unit).

We are asking any local unit that **presents the PowerPoint to their members** to email Keri Lee, COPTA Director of Leadership – keri.lee@copta.org – **to be entered into a drawing for a prize.**



We are also asking all units to include two things on their MemberHub Membership Sign-up page:

- A “Community Membership” option – this allows non-parent, non-staff, and non-faculty a place to join.
- An option for new members to indicate that they are a “First Time Member” when they sign up. Here is an example of the enrollment where this information can be included, which will help us to track all new members this school year:

PTA's Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee

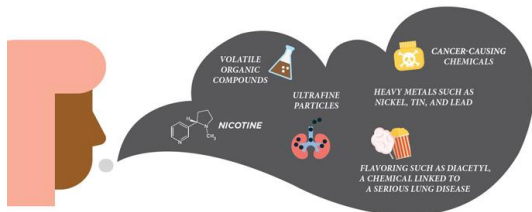
- All members are welcome to attend monthly meetings.
- The next meeting is on Oct. 20, 10:30 a.m. via zoom. Contact HWS@copta.org for more information.

Colorado Immunization Advocates (CIA), a nonprofit organization of Colorado parents and concerned citizens who support pro-science vaccine policy for the safety of our children and the community, provides numerous **advocacy resources** at <https://www.coimmunizationadvocates.org/resources.html>.

Opportunities to **protect youth from the dangers of today's high-potency marijuana** are available through One Chance to Grow Up, a nonprofit initiative to increase awareness and safeguards for youth related to currently available high-potency marijuana products: <https://onechancetogrowup.org/take-action/>.



Information for parents to help **decrease teen vaping** and prevent younger kids from starting with flavored e-cigarettes is available at Parents Against Vaping e-cigarettes (PAVe): <https://actionnetwork.org/groups/parents-against-vaping>.



A new CDC feature highlights **How Parents and Teachers Can Talk to Youth About E-Cigarette Use** to help students understand the serious health risks of using E-cigarettes:

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults



The U.S.D.A. extended the child nutrition waivers so **schools can offer free meals to all students through June 2022**, regardless of household income. A CDC **mini-toolkit** provides information for communicating with parents about free school meals.

Destructive Tik Tok Trend

Many of you may be aware of the “devious lick” trend surfacing on the TikTok platform. This social media trend encourages students to break, vandalize, or steal school property on camera for likes. A few PTAs have reached out to National PTA and TikTok to flag these occurrences in their school communities. We want to share a message directly from Eric Ebenstein and Kim Lipsky, who are PTA's primary contacts at Tik Tok addressing this issue:

We want to be clear that TikTok does not allow content that promotes or enables criminal activities. We also want to share how to report any content that violates our Community Guidelines so our moderation team can review and take immediate action.

Please share these quick steps with your local PTAs if they need assistance:

- To report a community violation, you simply long-press (also known as press-and-hold) the video, and a pop-up will appear. Select Report and follow the outlined steps.
- You can visit TikTok's [Support page](#) anytime to learn more about reporting a problem.

Please know that we are removing this content and redirecting hashtags and search results to our Community Guidelines to discourage such behavior.

We also encourage you to visit the [TikTok Newsroom](#) to learn more about TikTok's latest features, creator spotlights, and our approach to safety, including [how we encourage our community to stay safe and create responsibly](#), [tools we offer to combat bullying](#), and [steps we're taking to further our safety and privacy commitments for teens](#).

As we have been doing throughout the collaboration between National PTA and TikTok in our PTA Connected work, we also urge families to have open, ongoing and regular conversations about safety on the app to ensure they are using it productively and responsibly.



Election Guides (resources in English and Spanish)

The National PTA has partnered with **Nonprofit VOTE** (<https://www.nonprofitvote.org/>) to produce several resources around the election for our members. National PTA encourages PTA members from across the country to engage with their communities about registering to vote and the significance of the voting process. PTA members can get involved by reviewing National PTA election guides, and by rolling out voter registration and pledge campaigns. Members may also visit www.nonprofitvote.org to learn more about voter engagement activities in their communities.

<https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/advocacy-resources/Election-Guides>

SIN FINES DE LUCRO, VOTACIÓN Y ELECCIONES (Nonprofits and Ballot Measures):

<https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/uploadedfiles/advocacy/nonprofits-and-ballot-measures-041014-en-sp-2.pdf>



¡Únase a Nosotros!

- 1 **Contacte a su PTA estatal** y conozca a algunas de las personas que pueden ayudarle a comenzar y sostener su organización PTA.
- 2 **Reclute a algunos padres y maestros** que estén interesados en liderar los esfuerzos.
- 3 **Identifique tres objetivos** para el año para captar la participación familiar en lo académico, el bienestar estudiantil y las mejoras escolares.
- 4 **Comparta maneras de respaldar** los esfuerzos de PTA como miembro o voluntario.
- 5 **Consiga respaldo de PTA regional, estatal y National PTA** sobre una variedad de temas –desde administración organizativa hasta defensoría para políticas o recursos que ayudara lograr sus metas de mejoría escolar– PTA está aquí para respaldarlo.

[PTA.org/Join](https://www.pta.org/Join)