

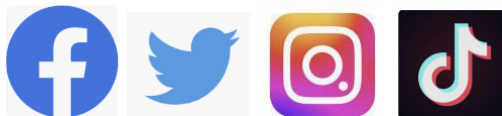


## A Message from Colorado PTA President Staci Ruddy



Happy September, PTA families! By now most of you are in the full swing of the new school year. As you launch into your PTA work, we want to assure you that we are here to support you! A couple of our councils have leadership trainings scheduled this month, so please ensure you are checking your email and exploring the opportunities that are available to you. Remember that officer training is a required element to remain one of our Healthy Units in Good Standing (HUGS)!

Our team at Colorado PTA is excited to put our summer planning into action and are scheduling several networking and Q & A sessions in the coming months. Plus, we are exploring other exciting avenues to help us better help YOU! While our newsletters are always a great place to get information, consider following us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or even our new TikTok for up-to-date information and events!



We hope this time of year is filled with excitement and hope for the coming months. As always, thank you for all you do to ensure that every child's potential is a reality!

*Staci Ruddy*

With school starting, COPTA's business partner, the local Rocky Mountain area McDonald's Owner/Operators, are continuing their program called "One Class at a Time" to provide K-12 teachers the opportunity to apply for \$2,000 to improve learning experiences for their students. Last spring \$12,000 was awarded to teachers! One class will be selected every other week to receive these funds so let YOUR favorite teacher know that they can submit their application NOW at <http://McD.to/6187JaK4R!>



### Save the Date!

<p><b>Bylaws Committee</b></p> <p>Sept. 1– meeting at 6:30 p.m. contact <a href="mailto:martamurray@copta.org">martamurray@copta.org</a> for more information</p>	<p><b>Denver Council PTA</b></p> <p>Sept. 10 –Fall Leadership Conference - <a href="#">click here</a> to register</p>	<p><b>Legislative Committee</b></p> <p>Sept. 12 –meeting at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom</p>	<p><b>Jeffco Council PTA</b></p> <p>Sept. 17 –Fall Leadership Conference - <a href="#">register here</a></p>	<p><b>Finance Committee</b></p> <p>Sept. 22 –meeting at 6:30 p.m.</p>
---	---	--	--	---

## MEMBERSHIP: THE KEY TO PTA'S SUCCESS

As we are preparing for the new school year, now is the time to recruit your Membership Committee. Here's what to do:

- Gather 2 – 5 current members who are passionate about your PTA unit and have them make some plans to recruit new members when school starts. This might mean having a table at registration or Back-to-School Night or creating/updating a page for MemberHub. Because many schools are continuing to do things remotely, have them be creative and think outside the box in regard to reaching out to incoming parents.
- [Zooming Into Membership](#) is a tool offered by National PTA. It offers a way for a local unit to host a meeting and invite members who might not be able to attend a meeting in person. Sometimes a new member just doesn't have the time to attend an in-person meeting because of child care or other conflicting issues.
- If current members are not interested in helping with Membership, there are other committees that a local unit might have. They could help with recruiting and managing the member volunteers.



## National PTA Grants

As the new school year is getting underway, National PTA is pleased to announce that it is offering over \$600K to nearly 500 PTAs to help host programs in the areas of digital safety, STEM, literacy, healthy lifestyles and the arts. [The application period is now open.](#) By answering only a few questions, PTAs can be eligible for \$1,000 or \$2,500 in program funding. This funding from our generous sponsors can help PTAs cover expenses like custodial services, food, transportation and translation services to help ensure all families can participate. No grant-writing experience is necessary.

Our engaging and educational PTA programs give families free access to resources that support their health, safety, well-being, and success. When PTAs hosts these programs, it demonstrates the value and impact of PTA in a tangible way and creates opportunities to reach and engage new members, as well as create connections with new local partners.

The deadline to submit applications is Sept. 27. You can learn more about the funding opportunities [PTA.org/Grants](#).

## TREASURERS: PLEASE NOTE!

Form 990-N filers will use a new sign-in process beginning this summer. Beginning August 2022, smaller charities that are eligible and choose to file Form 990-N, Electronic Notice for Tax-Exempt Organizations (e-Postcard), must sign into the IRS modernized authentication platform using either their active IRS username or create an account with ID.me, the current IRS credential service provider.

When accessing the [Form 990-N submission page](#), Form 990-N filers have three options:

1. Sign in with their active IRS username: Users with an active IRS username have the option to access the Form 990-N submission page using their existing IRS credentials or they can choose to create a new account with ID.me.
2. Sign in with their existing ID.me account: Users that have an ID.me account to access other IRS online services or from a state or federal agency can sign in using their existing ID.me account.
3. Create a new ID.me account: Users that don't have an active IRS username credential must register and sign in with ID.me.

ID.me account creation requires an email address and multifactor authentication. Form 990-N filers who have an existing IRS username and register for an ID.me account must use the same email address.

The filing process has not changed for organizations that file [Form 990](#), Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, or [Form 990-EZ](#), Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax.

Free Online Training for Small to Mid-Sized Section 501(c)(3) Charities

The IRS provides interactive online training to help officers, board members and volunteers maintain your organization's Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status - including a course on filing Form 990-series annual returns. The [Virtual Small to Mid-Sized Tax-Exempt Workshop](#) at [StayExempt.irs.gov](#) is an important resource for all charities, old and new.

# ADVOCACY: PTA'S MISSION

Colorado PTA promotes and encourages well-informed and broad-based voter participation. If you are not registered to vote, you can register online at [GoVoteColorado.com](https://www.govotecolorado.com) through October 31 to receive a ballot in the mail; otherwise, use this same link to find out how to register and vote. Same-day voter registration and in-person voting can be done at all Polling Centers – use the same link to find one near you. If you have moved in the past year, please update your voter registration. You may also want to check to see if redistricting affected the districts that you have voted for in the last 10 years.

Here is what will be on your ballot this year:

## National and state candidates\*\*

– these are “partisan,” meaning that the candidates are listed by political party:

- U.S. Senate – one seat, elected statewide.
- U.S. House – all “Congressional Districts” are up.
- State Senate – only SDs 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 15, 20, 22, 24, 25, 27, 30, 32, 34, 35 are up
- State House – all 65 districts are up
- Governor – statewide.
- State Board of Education – there will be one statewide (“at-large”) race as well as elections in Congressional Districts 5, 6, 8.
- CU Board of Regents – there will be elections in Congressional Districts 1, 4, 5, 8
- Attorney General – statewide.
- State Treasurer – statewide.
- Secretary of State – statewide.



## Local races:

- Regional Transportation District (RTD) Board of Directors – these are only in the Denver metro area and only for districts C, I, J, K, L, N, O (these are nonpartisan).
- County Commissioner, Treasurer, Clerk & Recorder, Sheriff, Assessor, and Surveyor – your county might have some of these races on the ballot (these are partisan).
- District Attorney – your Judicial District might have this seat up this year, if it is one of the 12 that are up (these are partisan races).
- Judges – some district and county judges will be up for retention (these are nonpartisan).

## Ballot issues:

- Statewide – there will be several propositions and amendments on the ballot.
- Local – counties, cities, and school districts might have ballot issues; for example:
  - Denver – My Spark Denver
  - Douglas County School District – mill levy and bond issue.

## State and National Elections

PTA wants our members to vote because these races affect public education and our families either directly or indirectly. Specifically, on the national and state levels:

- U.S. Senate & House of Representatives, State Senate & House of Representatives – these are legislative bodies that pass laws and determine how tax dollars are spent.

- Governor – the Governor either signs or vetoes bills from the legislative body and can issue Executive Orders, influence the policies of state departments, and use the position to persuade voters and policymakers.
- State Board of Education – this board implements state laws regarding public education, including state assessments and accountability requirements, and it is also in charge of teacher licensure, public libraries, distribution of federal and state education grants, and charter school appeals.
- CU Board of Regents – this board oversees all universities that are part of the University of Colorado system (4 campuses), and it directs funding and determines their policies.
- Attorney General – the state’s AG enforces consumer protection laws, defends lawsuits against state officials and agencies, influences public policy, and can pursue lawsuits on public policy issues; programs like Safe2Tell are in the AG’s department.
- State Treasurer – this person is in charge of managing all state funds that are subject to investments to generate interest, such as the School Trust Lands Permanent Fund.
- Secretary of State – this person is in charge of implementing state elections and voting policies, managing business licenses and legal reporting, and overseeing programs and services such as lobbyists, nonprofits, and notaries.

## This election matters:

For local races, decisions by the RTD Board of Directors, county officials, District Attorneys, and judges can be made that affect our families directly and our schools indirectly.

There will be several statewide ballot issues this year. These elections give registered voters the opportunity to participate directly in the governance of our state. Ballot issues can be either referred to the ballot by our Legislature or through the initiative process (signature-gathering on petitions). There are two types of ballot issues:

- Amendments – when voters pass an amendment on the ballot, they are voting to change the Colorado Constitution. Passing an amendment requires 55% of the vote.
- Propositions – when voters pass a proposition on the ballot, they are voting to change state law/statute. Passing a proposition requires a majority of the votes (50% + 1).

\*\* Please note: Due to non-profit status, PTAs may NOT take a position on candidates. PTAs MAY take positions on ballot issues so long as the Colorado PTA Guidelines for Advocating PTA’s Positions on Ballot Issues are followed.



## Resolutions

PTA bases its advocacy on resolutions and position statements. During the National PTA's 125th Anniversary Convention, delegates adopted resolutions on Agriculture Education and School Gardens, Electric School Buses, and Solar Energy for Schools. The resolutions are posted on National PTA's website at [PTA.org/Resolutions](https://www.pta.org/Resolutions). PTAs at all levels are encouraged to use the resolutions to build partnerships, form coalitions, increase awareness, develop programs and advocate with policymakers on these issues.

In addition to the newly adopted resolutions, the NPTA Resolutions Committee is seeking resolutions for consideration during the 2023 National PTA Convention. All resolutions packets must be received electronically at [Resolutions@PTA.org](mailto:Resolutions@PTA.org) by 11:59 p.m. EST on Oct. 15, 2022. See the [Resolutions Toolkit](#) for detailed submission guidelines.

Colorado PTA's resolutions and position statements are posted on our [website](#). If you would like to submit a resolution to Colorado PTA for consideration during its 2023 State Convention, the deadline is due to [legislative@copta.org](mailto:legislative@copta.org) or [office@copta.org](mailto:office@copta.org) by December 31. The website includes links to the documents to use to submit a resolution to Colorado PTA.

## Special Education Advocacy for Families and Caregivers of Children with Disabilities

The Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council and the Colorado Education Initiative are partnering to facilitate trainings for families and caregivers to help them navigate the education system in ways that set students up for success and could prevent suspension and expulsion, especially those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). Attendees will increase their knowledge of the education system to protect and advocate for their students' access to FAPE (free and appropriate education).

The training includes a FREE, interactive 2-hour virtual training and access to resources that support families in their advocacy work. Key objectives of the training include helping to understand and navigate the fundamental pillars of IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), with an overview of the IEP (Individualized Education Plan) process. It will also help understand the impacts of suspension/expulsion on special education students.

The trainings are on Sept. 6 and 13 at 6 p.m. [Click here to register](#). If you have any questions, contact [vmartinez@coloradoedinitiative.org](mailto:vmartinez@coloradoedinitiative.org).

## Child Tax Credit

PTAs can help families claim thousands of dollars by spreading the word about the expanded [Child Tax Credit](#) (CTC) - up to \$3,600 per child. Direct families to [GetCTC.org/pta](https://GetCTC.org/pta) where they can claim this money through mid-November. [According to research](#), families with school-aged children in July and August 2021 were more likely to spend their CTC payments to offset costs for back-to-school supplies and essentials. The back-to-school period provides the opportunity to spread the word about the CTC by:

- Including [flyers](#) in "welcome back" resources
- Sending texts, emails or robocalls to families using [these sample messages](#)
- Posting on social media using [these sample content/graphics](#)

Find other ready-to-use, multilingual resources on [this outreach website](#). Check out [this short school outreach training](#) to learn more. For questions, contact [Julia Beebe](#), Coalition on Human Needs & Partnership for America's Children.

## MEMBERSHIP

Make joining your PTA as easy as possible! Create a QR code that links to your online membership join page or form and then post it everywhere! [Check out this video](#) to learn how to create a QR code in less than 60 seconds and then people in your community can join your PTA within 60 seconds of scanning your QR code. [Watch now](#). Remember to invite past members to join again this year.



*Here are some Back-to-School and pertinent resources for the health, wellness, and safety of your PTA and your school (most listings have resources you can share in Spanish and English):*

## Guidance for Schools Regarding COVID

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released [updated COVID-19 guidance for schools](#) that puts more of a burden on high-risk individuals to protect themselves from the virus and de-emphasizes some common prevention strategies that school districts have adopted throughout the pandemic. Rather than quarantining after an exposure, the recommendations say that students and staff should remain in school, wear a “well-fitting mask,” and get tested. Also gone is guidance on “test-to-stay” strategies, under which schools allow students who’ve been exposed to the virus remain at school if they agree to take periodic tests.

Colorado’s guidance basically treats COVID like other communicable diseases, continuing a policy the state established in February at the end of the first Omicron wave. There are no mask mandates and no quarantine rules, but state public health officials say they’re still tracking the disease and want school administrators to be open and honest with families about cases and clusters. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is continuing to make [free rapid antigen tests widely available to schools and child care centers](#), both for weekly testing programs and for students to use at home. A comprehensive user-friendly summary of important vaccination information for parents was recently released by Immunize Colorado, “Set Your Child U for a Healthy School Year with Vaccines”: <https://www.immunizecolorado.org/set-your-child-up-for-a-healthy-school-year-with-vaccines/>.



## Trends in Youth Use of Tobacco

While there are many positive trends in the latest Healthy Kids Colorado Survey data, there remain areas of concern. The data suggest that youth are experimenting with vapor products at a very young age. The percentage of high schoolers who tried vape products before the age of 13 significantly increased, from 13% in 2019 to 22% in 2021. The American Lung Association has made available helpful information about youth: <https://www.lung.org/quit-smoking/helping-teens-quit/talk-about-vaping/vaping-facts>

Health,  
wellness &  
safety

## Testing for Lead in Schools’ Water

A new state law requires Colorado elementary schools and child care centers to test their drinking water for lead and to install filters and make repairs if the levels are 5 parts per billion or higher. The deadline to test the water is May 31, 2023. The state has appropriated \$21 million for testing and repairs.

## How Are Colorado Kids Doing?

The Colorado Children's Campaign released its annual “[KidsCount in Colorado!](#)” report in August. The report outlines data showing the impact of the pandemic on kids and families in Colorado and illustrates the pandemic’s continued, far-reaching effects on Colorado kids – from difficulty accessing health care, child care, early learning opportunities, and K-12 education to ongoing housing instability, food insecurity, and other economic challenges.

## Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being

On the [CDC website](#), learn why [school connectedness](#) is important to children and adolescents’ mental health and [emotional well-being](#). Find out ways [parents can get involved in school](#) and support skills for social and emotional development at home.

## Healthy School Meals

The Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee of Colorado PTA is planning an event at the end of September or beginning of October to discuss and promote the Healthy School Meals ballot measure, which Colorado PTA supports. The event will be a hybrid, with the in-person part held in El Paso County sponsored by the El Paso Council PTA. Watch for an announcement of the date and time!



# Save the Date for Convention

Colorado PTA's annual Convention in 2023 will be on Saturday and Sunday, April 29-30, at the same location as last year, the DoubleTree by Hilton Denver Tech Center, 7801 E. Orchard Rd., Greenwood Village.

We need help to prepare another great Convention! If you are interested in helping with one of these areas, please email Christina Powell, VP for Convention, at [christinapowell@copta.org](mailto:christinapowell@copta.org):

- Exhibitors/Sponsors (outreach to exhibitors/sponsors and arranging the Exhibit Hall)
- Catering (working with the hotel to arrange for the meals)
- Program (creating the Program document)
- Decorations (creating decorations for the tables in the ballroom)
- Registration (checking people in at the event)
- Boutique (setting up the boutique items for sale at the event)
- Credentials (giving attendees' their credentials card)
- Workshops (helping to arrange for presenters and to get the rooms set up)



If you are interested, please contact us at [christinapowell@copta.org](mailto:christinapowell@copta.org) or [convention@copta.org](mailto:convention@copta.org).

## National PTA Resources

### Back to School with PTA

Celebrate Back to School Week September 12–16, 2022. National PTA's [Back-to-School Week](#) will celebrate a reimagined school year for families and school communities across the nation. Throughout the week, the association will share information and resources to help PTA leaders, parents, and teachers plan their school year, engage their communities and support for student wellbeing and learning. Our teachers and students are mostly back in the school building this year—albeit masked up and socially distant. And while health and safety are top of mind, National PTA wants to help make sure you have the tools you need to rock this school year!



National PTA School of Excellence is a recognition program that supports and celebrates partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students.

**Enrollment** for the 2022-2023 program will be open from May 1, 2022 until October 1, 2022.

Learn more about the National PTA [School of Excellence Program](#).



### National Arts in Education Week

Celebrate Sept. 11-17 by starting your Reflections program around the theme, Show Your Voice!

[Register Now](#) →