



## MEMBERSHIP: THE KEY TO PTA'S SUCCESS

Reminder: Membership lists and dues need to be submitted to MemberHub by February 1!

### MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

We are holding a Membership Contest for all units. All units that submit their Membership Reports by October 1 and February 1 will be entered into a drawing for a BOGO registration for the annual Colorado PTA Convention!

Don't worry ... if your unit submitted dues by October 1, you will automatically be entered. Units can be entered a second time for submitting a Membership Report again by February 1.

The drawing will be held on February 20, and the winning units will be notified by email. To use the free registrations, units need to submit 2 registrations (the second one will be free).

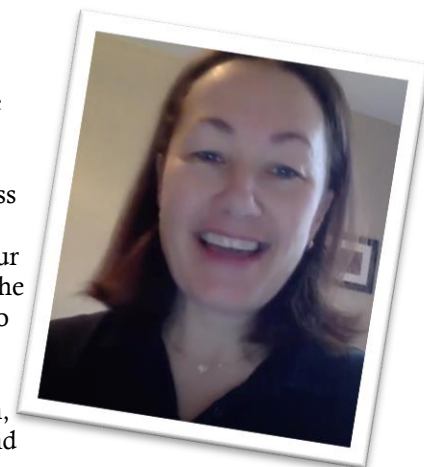
**DID YOU KNOW...** that you should ask people to join your PTA? If you don't ask your students' families to join PTA, then they might not know they are welcome to be part of PTA.

## A Message from Colorado PTA President Staci Ruddy

Happy New Year! I often find that with a new year comes new inspiration, motivation, and excitement for the future.... I hope this rings true for you, too!

January is a great time to check in on the progress your PTA has made towards your goals for the school year and ensure you are on track with your approved budget. There is plenty of time left in the school year to tackle any items still on your to-do or wish list.

As we begin 2023, I wish you all a year of health, happiness, and prosperity. Please let my team and me know if we can support you in any way. Thank you for all you do to make every child's potential a reality!



### Save the Date!

Jan. 5, 6:30 p.m. – Bylaws Committee meeting  
Jan. 9, 6:30 p.m. – Legislative Committee meeting  
Jan. 16 – MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY  
Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m. – Convention Committee meeting  
Jan. 23, 6:30 p.m. – Legislative Committee meeting  
Jan. 25, 10:30 a.m. – Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee meeting



## REGISTER NOW FOR OUR ANNUAL CONVENTION!



We are still determining what workshops will be presented at the Convention. If you are interested in presenting a workshop, know someone who would be good, or have a topic for a workshop you'd like to see, please contact our Convention Workshop Chair, Evie Hudak, at [eviehudak@copta.org](mailto:eviehudak@copta.org).

Colorado PTA's annual Convention in 2023 will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 29-30, 2023, at the same location as last year, the DoubleTree by Hilton Denver Tech Center, 7801 E. Orchard Rd., Greenwood Village. Register [here](#) or use the QR Code.



If you represent a business or organization that PTA members across the state could benefit from knowing, we would love to have you join this year's convention as an exhibitor. We would also appreciate recommendations of businesses or organizations that have benefitted your PTA. Please use this link or QR code to sign up or make a recommendation: [Exhibitors](#)

We still need some help to prepare another great Convention. The next meeting of the Convention Committee will be Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in helping and would like to join the meeting, please email Christina Powell, VP for Convention, at [christinapowell@copta.org](mailto:christinapowell@copta.org).

## HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND SAFETY



You can join the [Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign](#), a national campaign aimed at engaging K-12 schools to improve energy use efficiency, improve indoor air quality, and reduce energy costs (<https://efficienthealthyschools.lbl.gov/join>). Any K-12 schools or their school districts interested in the campaign, especially schools serving low-income student populations, are welcome to join as participants. The Office of State and Community Energy Programs [issued \\$80 million in grant funding](#) under the Renew America's Schools program. Funding opportunities are available at [DOE's Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Exchange](#).

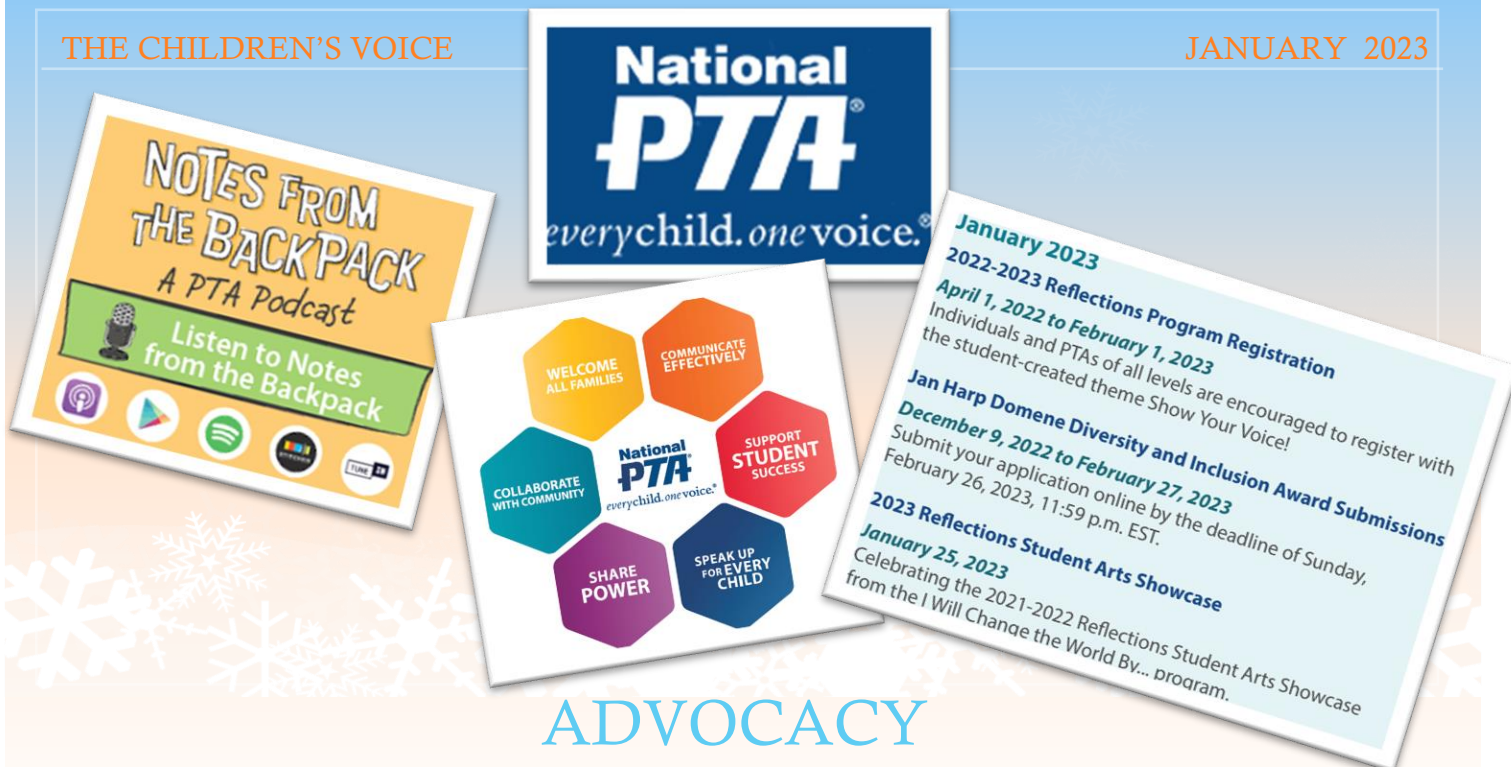


The Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC) has published a comprehensive document that is regularly updated with information pertaining to COVID-19 and children: <https://publichealthcollaborative.org/faq/#pediatric-vaccines>. In addition to the latest vaccine recommendations, it includes information on testing, treatment, schools and in-person learning, mask guidance, new variants, as well as answers to difficult questions about children and vaccines, and sample social media posts. The PHCC also published an updated toolkit on COVID-19 vaccine recommendations for children: [https://publichealthcollaborative.org/resources/graphics-children-and-covid-19-vaccination/?utm\\_source=PHCC+Email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Newsletter](https://publichealthcollaborative.org/resources/graphics-children-and-covid-19-vaccination/?utm_source=PHCC+Email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter).



Youth e-cigarette use remains a public health crisis with over 2.5 million middle and high schoolers vaping. Parents play a critical role in the fight to stop the youth e-cigarette epidemic. The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids provides timely resources for parents to help curb this epidemic: <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/protectkids/resources-for-parents/>





The 2023 Legislative Session starts January 9, 2022 — the same day as Colorado PTA's next Legislative Committee meeting!!!

During the legislative session, we will be reviewing and taking positions on bills that bear relevance to COPTA's [Legislative Priorities for 2023](#) and [2022–23 Legislative Platform](#).

Public school funding remains one of our highest priorities. It is more important than ever to keep this important issue at the top of our legislators' minds. While we saw a reduction in 2022 to the "budget stabilization factor" – the loophole that allows the Legislature to cut school funding below what Amendment 23 was expected to allow – public school funding remains inadequate. The foundation of the current funding levels is expected to crumble further. There is no sustainable source of funding to meet the needs of our public schools. Our schools are in crisis — students, teachers, and staff deserve better.

There will be bills introduced related to revamping the school finance formula and increasing funding for special education, based on the work in the [Interim Committee on School Finance](#). However, without additional funding for education, these changes will not be enough for us to achieve equity and adequacy in school finance.

That is why Colorado PTA has made a donation to Great Education Colorado in support of the Great Schools Thriving Communities legislative push for a future ballot measure to increase school funding. Local units may do the same as long as any of their expenditures fall within the IRS's "insubstantial part" provision for 501(c)(3) nonprofits: \*\* Because of laws surrounding PTA's non-profit status, expenditures for the purpose of influencing legislation may not constitute a substantial part of its activities or expenditures. While the IRS does not provide clear guidance, it is generally considered to be in compliance if activities and expenditures do not exceed 2% of an organization's annual gross revenue.\*\*

PTA will also continue to advocate and inform on issues and bills in the areas of school/district accountability, educator accountability, equity, safety, and health. We may see bills related to mental health, school safety, gun safety, juvenile justice, changes to the school accountability system, and a myriad of other issues that affect our children and youth. We look forward to keeping you informed as the legislative session proceeds and hope to see you in the new year!

The Colorado PTA [Legislative Committee](#) meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from January through April during the annual session of the Colorado General Assembly (State Legislature), and on the 2nd Mondays during the other months. PTA members who attend 3 or more meetings per year are entitled to vote at the meetings. If you would like to sign up for the Legislative Committee email list – which will allow you to receive information from the committee including meeting invitations, agenda, minutes, and other relevant information – please sign up [here](#). You can find COPTA's advocacy materials [here](#) on our website (scroll down).

See also National PTA [Position Statements](#); [Resolutions](#)  
See also Colorado PTA [Resolutions and Positions](#); [Legislative Priorities for 2023](#)

