
Oregon PTA Legislative Platform 2010-2012

Legislative Policies

Oregon PTA supports the following concepts:

1. Agencies with responsibilities for the education, health or welfare of children and youth must have:
 - clearly defined responsibilities.
 - provisions for adequate funding and structure to effectively meet legislative intent.
 - provisions for review of administrative rules by the legislature and interested citizens.
2. All federal legislation concerned with education and child welfare must include provisions which ensure maximum state and local control.
3. All federal funds for educational, health, and welfare services for children and youth must be channeled through appropriate state or local governmental boards or agencies (e.g., the Department of Education).
4. Federal and state support of services for children must ensure equalization of opportunities.
5. Federal and state legislation and regulations must provide protection of the constitutional and civil rights of each individual.

Educational Policies

Oregon PTA supports federal and state legislation toward the following goals:

1. To ensure stability of school revenue.
2. To ensure equitable distribution of school revenue.
3. To ensure that federal funds for education will be appropriated only for publicly-controlled and tax-supported schools.
4. To provide adequate financial assistance for education beyond high school in publicly- controlled, tax-supported institutions.
5. To encourage and assist school districts to meet the needs of all children and youth.
6. To prevent school closures and mandate an uninterrupted school year.

7. To support efforts to ensure equal quality of education throughout the state of Oregon.
8. To ensure a supply of capable and qualified teachers for the education of Oregon children and youth.
9. To support the Oregon Educational Act for the 21st Century through the implementation of Goals 2000, the Educate America Act.
10. To support the use of lottery funds to improve the stability of equitable school funding.
11. To support legislation that would encourage all employers –public and private—to grant time for employees to volunteer and participate in children’s school activities within the work day without any loss of income, stature, or job security.
12. To support utilization of available revenue to fully and equitably fund public schools.
13. To support system development charges on new housing developments to help provide safe and adequate public school facilities.

Health and Welfare Policies

Oregon PTA supports federal and state legislation toward the following goals:

1. To assist states in providing necessary public health and welfare services for all children and families.
2. To extend and support research focusing on the needs of all children and families.
3. To provide education for the prevention of child abuse.
4. To provide regulation of the manufacturing, advertising, or sale of products hazardous to children and youth (e.g., tobacco, alcohol, etc.).
5. To examine laws governing minors who are identified as runaways for the purpose of securing appropriate guardianship.
6. To increase and strengthen drug and alcohol awareness and prevention programs.
7. To protect children and youth from violence in schools.
8. To develop programs of juvenile protection to strengthen local and state programs of prevention, control, treatment, and rehabilitation.
9. To protect the ecological and environmental qualities of life necessary to the development of healthy and productive youth.
10. To provide consumer protection for youth and families.
11. To promote programs that prevent teenage pregnancy.

12. To provide equal access to health care services for children, pregnant women, and other family members.
13. To support education and prevention programs for children and youth regarding HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases.
14. To oppose all legislative attempts to suppress information about family diversity and sexual orientation.
15. To support utilization of available revenue for full and adequate funding of necessary state services that benefit children, such as public agencies that provide children and family services, and other public programs including drug/alcohol abuse prevention, and HIV/AIDS awareness research prevention.
16. To promote child safety programs for all areas of unintentional injury prevention.
17. To support appropriate laws to increase safety for children and to help prevent unintentional injuries.

Oregon Legislative Action Program 2010-2012

Note: Numbers in parenthesis following each statement refer to the policies listed in the Oregon PTA Legislative Platform.

Oregon PTA Supports The Following Federal and State Legislation

Alcohol/Drug

Enact legislation declaring that the advertising, sale, manufacture, delivery and/or possession of look-alike drugs be unlawful and urge and support legislation banning the manufacture, advertising, and sale of paraphernalia for use with illegal drugs. (H&W #4)

Support efforts to counteract and eliminate alcoholic beverage advertising on radio and TV. (H&W #4, #6)

Oppose legislation that will legalize marijuana except for medically prescribed reasons. (H&W #4)

Environmental Health Hazards

Ensure that the rules and regulations governing the Asbestos School Hazard Abatement Act of 1984 provide both adequate protection for children and employees and a strong formal process for notifying parents of asbestos hazards. (H&W #9)

Urge Congress to appropriate adequate funds for the Asbestos Hazard Abatement Act of 1984. (H&W #9)

Support efforts to reduce children's exposure to lead, radon and pesticides. (H&W #9)

Child Abuse

Provide stronger law enforcement for sex offenses with an appropriate rehabilitation and/or incarceration program mandatory for the offender. (H&W #8)

Assist states and localities to develop and fund educational and prevention programs to protect children from physical, sexual, mental, and emotional abuse or neglect. (H&W #3)

TV Action

Support appropriate television programming for children and youth. (H&W #9)

Comprehensive Health

Ensure that all legislation relating to child labor should protect the education, health, safety, and welfare of young people and allow opportunities for them to work at appropriate jobs. (Legislation #4)
Provide public health services and public health education opportunities for all children and youth. (H&W #1)

Ensure improved counseling and guidance services and/or school social worker programs at all levels. (ED #5)

Ensure equal access to Health Care Services for all children, pregnant women, and other family members and guarantee that children and youth get quality health care. (H&W #1, #2, #12)

Support efforts to make health services available to all children and families by integrating services. (H&W #1, #2, #12)

Support legislative retention and use of "kicker" dollars, rather than returning overages to corporate and personal taxpayers, to fund needed and necessary state services that benefit children, such as children and family services, drug and alcohol abuse and prevention programs, HIV/AIDS awareness, research, and prevention programs. (H&W #15)

Juvenile Protection

Emphasize juvenile delinquency prevention and alternatives to institutionalization. (H&W #5, #7)

Mandate the removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups. (H&W #5, #8)

Provide programs to assist runaways and homeless youth and their families, including programs to temporarily provide safe, secure shelters (without armed guards) while families or appropriate agencies are contacted and to help locate missing children. (H&W #1, #5)

Provide adequate funding for the implementation of juvenile justice, runaway, homeless youth and missing children programs. (H&W #1, #5)

School Funding

Ensure stability in school funding. (ED #1)
Provide financial support of not less than 49 percent of the operating costs of public schools from state funds. (ED #1)

Ensure that the federal government maintains an educational and funding commitment to children with special needs. (ED #5)

Provide for education beyond high school, including higher, continuing or adult education, and provide adequate financial assistance for publicly-controlled, tax-supported institutions and agencies. (ED #4)

Ensure equity in educational financing at all levels of government. (ED #2)

Support the use of lottery funds to improve the stability of equitable school funding. (ED #10)

Support legislative retention and use of “kicker” dollars to adequately fund public education, rather than returning overages to corporate and personal taxpayers. (ED #1, 5, 7, 11)

Special Oregon Policy Concerns

Oppose legislation that attempts to suppress information about family diversity and sexual orientation. (H&W #14)

Continue the present system of an elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Oppose legislation that requires a specified percentage of legal voters participating in a school election or requires a super majority vote to determine the results of a school election. (Leg. #1)

Oppose legislation that statutorily establishes curriculum. (ED #5, Leg #5)

Oppose proposals for tuition tax credits, vouchers, choice/scholarships, etc., for the education of public and non-public preschool, elementary, and secondary education. (ED#1)

Support efforts to guarantee site-based decision making. (ED #9)

Continue to ensure that Parental Involvement be recognized as a state and national education goal. (ED #7)

Support system development charges on new housing developments to help provide for construction of new school buildings, or to acquire land, reduce indebtedness and/or purchase required equipment. (ED #5,12)

Education

Provide for the expansion of the public schools’ ability to provide quality early childhood education programs. (H&W #1, LEG #1)

Oppose federally mandated, standardized, multiple choice tests and those that require state by state and district by district comparison. (H&W #2, LEG #2)

Support the Oregon Educational Act for the 21st Century through the implementation of Goals 2000, the Educate America Act. (ED #9)

Support legislation that would encourage all employers – public and private—to grant time for employees to volunteer and participate in children’s school activities within the work day without any loss of income, stature, or job security. (ED #11)

Resolutions Previously Adopted at Oregon PTA Conventions

Oppose Arbitrary Spending Limits Initiatives2006
Full Funding of the Quality Education Model and Litigation to Support Full Funding2006
State Lands2005
Unintentional Injury Prevention2001
System Development Charges (System Impact Fees)1997
Kicker-Surplus Tax Credit1997
Family Involvement Leave Time.....1996
Support for the “Kids First” Initiative1994
Respect for Differing Views on Sexual Orientation.....1994
Gun Violence, Education, and Awareness1991
Afternoon Television Viewing for Children1989
Uniform Regulations for Tanning Facilities.....1989
Education on Risks of Indoor Tanning.....1989
Driving Education Programs1989
Reaffirmation of National PTA AIDS Resolution.....1988
Federal Seat Belt Standards on Type 1 Large School Buses1987
Comprehensive Teen Health Clinics1987
Video Access and Display Regulation.....1987
Clove Cigarettes.....1986
Smokeless Tobacco.....1986
Liberty Centennial Celebration & the Restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island1986
Stability of School Finance1986
Mandatory Seat Belts on School Buses1985