
Oregon PTA Legislative Platform 2016-2018

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.
7. To include parents in all levels of education-related decision-making, with a focus on encouraging and promoting parent engagement.
8. To invest in the education of the whole child, including but not limited to art, music, technical education, critical thinking, decision-making and creative thinking, not in high stakes testing.
9. To prevent school closures and mandate an uninterrupted school year.
10. To support efforts to ensure equal quality of education throughout the state of Oregon.
11. To ensure a supply of capable and qualified teachers for the education of Oregon children and youth.
12. To make teacher evaluations professional learning tools, and for school districts to provide effective professional development to promote excellence in the classroom.
13. To support the Oregon Educational Act for the 21st Century and the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015.
14. To support the use of lottery funds to improve the stability of equitable school funding.
15. 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.
16. To support utilization of available revenue to fully and equitably fund public schools.
17. To support system development charges on new housing developments to help provide safe and adequate public school facilities.

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 maintain or increase investments for quality early learning programs.
6. To encourage and assist school districts to meet the needs of all children and youth.

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 end hunger among children and families in Oregon.
3. To extend and support research focusing on the needs of all children and families.
4. To provide education for the prevention of child abuse.
5. To provide regulation of the manufacturing, advertising, or sale of products hazardous to children and youth (e.g., tobacco, alcohol, etc.).
6. To increase and strengthen drug and alcohol awareness and prevention programs.

7. To examine laws governing minors who are identified as runaways for the purpose of securing appropriate guardianship.
8. To protect children and youth from violence in schools.
9. To develop programs of juvenile protection to strengthen local and state programs of prevention, control, treatment, and rehabilitation.
10. To promote effective family focused, school based interventions for children who are truant.
11. To protect the ecological and environmental qualities of life necessary to the development of healthy and productive youth.
12. To provide consumer protection for youth and families.
13. To promote healthy lifestyles and eating habits both at home and at school.
14. To promote programs that prevents teenage pregnancy.
15. To provide equal access to health care services for children, pregnant women, and other family members.
16. To support education and prevention programs for children and youth regarding HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases.
17. To oppose all legislative attempts to suppress information about family diversity and sexual orientation.
18. 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.
19. To promote child safety programs for all areas of unintentional injury prevention.
20. To support appropriate laws to increase safety for children and to help prevent unintentional injuries.

Oregon Legislative Action Program 2016-2018

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 #5)

Support efforts to counteract and eliminate alcoholic beverage advertising on radio and TV. (H&W #5 & #6)

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 #11)

Urge Congress to appropriate adequate funds for the Asbestos Hazard Abatement Act of 1984. (H&W #11)

Support efforts to reduce children's exposure to #lead, radon and pesticides. (H&W #11)

Support public policy and funding options to protect children through the construction and retrofitting of seismically resilient schools. (HW #11)

Child Abuse

Provide stronger law enforcement for sex offenses with an appropriate rehabilitation and/or incarceration program mandatory for the offender. (H&W #9)

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 #4)

TV Action

Support appropriate television programming for children and youth. (H&W #11)

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 #6)

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, #3, #15)

Support efforts to make health services available to all children and families by integrating services. (H&W #1, #3, #15)

Encourage legislative policies that promote healthy eating and lifestyle and access to the same for all children (ED #4 & H&W #13)

Ensure children and families have access to emergency food and sustainable food assistance. (H&W #2)

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 schools, children and family services, drug and alcohol abuse and prevention programs, HIV/AIDS awareness, research, and prevention programs. (H&W #15)

Juvenile Protection

Emphasize prevention of juvenile delinquency, and **truancy and promote alternatives** to institutionalization. (H&W #6, #7, #9 & #10)

Mandate the removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups. (H&W #5, #9)

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, #7, #9 & #10))

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 #6, 16 & 17)

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 #14)

Support legislative retention and use of “kicker” dollars to adequately fund public education, rather than returning overages to corporate and personal taxpayers. (ED #1, 6, 7, 11)

Restore funding for the PIRC (Parent Information Resource Centers), and raise the Title I set aside from 1% to 2% to promote parent engagement. (ED #7)

Special Oregon Policy Concerns

Oppose legislation that attempts to suppress information about family diversity and sexual orientation. (H&W #17)

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 #6)

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 #7 & #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 #6 & #17)

Education

Provide for the expansion of the public schools' ability to provide quality early childhood education programs. (H&W #1, LEG #1 & #5)

Oppose federally mandated, standardized, multiple choice tests and those that require state by state and district by district comparison. (H&W #3, LEG #2 & #8)

Support the Oregon Educational Act for the 21st Century and the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. (ED #13)

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 #13 & #15)