

2009-10 Florida PTA Position Statements

Adequate Public Education Funding

Florida PTA urges the Legislature to reverse its recent trend and adequately fund public education to meet the mandate set by the Florida Constitution.

Assessment and Testing

A valid assessment does not consist only of a single test score, and at no time should a single test be considered the sole determinant of a student's academic or work future.

Children's Right to Legal Counsel

Requires qualified legal counsel for all children in all proceedings governed by Chapter 39, Florida Statutes and supports the expansion of the Florida Guardian Ad Litem Program.

Child Trafficking

Support the adoption and enforcement of laws that will deter the importation and illegal detainment of children.

Class Size Reduction

Supports class size reduction proposals that consider actual class size, meaning the number of students in a teacher's room for whom that teacher is accountable, rather than pupil/teacher ratios, which do not accurately reflect teachers' contacts with children.

Daily Recess

School districts should require daily recess (defined as supervised, active, unstructured play) with adequate equipment and adequate supervision of at least 20 consecutive minutes for all elementary children.

Education for Gifted and Talented Children

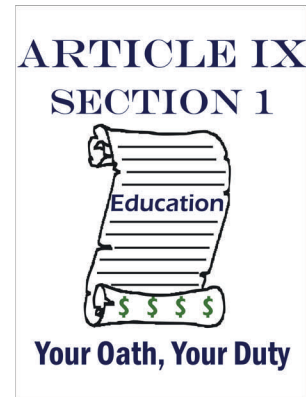
Supports educational programs in the public schools for those children identified as gifted and talented.

Florida Tax Structure

Tax revenue should be increased through tax structure reform in order to adequately fund services necessary to meet the educational, health, safety, recreational, and other basic needs of Florida's children.

Newborn Congenital Heart Defect Screening

The State of Florida should require that every baby born in a hospital in the state shall receive, prior to being discharged from the hospital, a pulse oximetry test for screening of Congenital Heart Defect with parental option to decline testing.



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Prevention

Fully fund an array of coordinated and integrated prevention services to help build strong families that raise their children to be healthy, productive adults.

Service Learning

Supports the funding of grants for service learning in K-12 as well as rules or legislation that allow students in appropriate grade levels to include service learning activity hours towards meeting community service requirements for graduation and for participation in the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

Use of Hands Free Device and Texting While Driving

The Florida PTA urges the Legislature to require the use of a hands free device with cell phones and ban the practice of texting while operating a moving vehicle.

Vouchers and Tax Credits

Oppose all education voucher and tax credit proposals for public and non-public preschool, elementary and secondary school students.

Voucher Funded School Accountability

Strict eligibility requirements should be imposed on private institutions and nonpublic K-12 schools receiving public dollars through any state funded voucher, grant or scholarship programs, and at a minimum, they should be required to meet the same accountability standards at their cost as public schools.

Items to be Continued in Priority:

For a comprehensive list of all Florida PTA position statements, go to www.floridapta.org

1. Go to tab entitled Legislation
2. Under the Legislation tab, go to Position Statements

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