



PREVENTION

FLORIDA PTA POSITION

Florida PTA urges the legislature to fully fund an array of coordinated and integrated prevention services to help build strong families that raise their children to be healthy, productive adults.

Background

Financial and human costs are lower when problems are prevented or resolved before they require expensive, deep-end services. During the 1990s, Florida spent billions on prisons and criminal justice, health problems, welfare, substance abuse treatment, remedial education and a wide array of other expensive services to address our communities' worst problems. Money was diverted unnecessarily from our economy and from important services for children and their families because of the failure to invest in prevention and early intervention services. Failure to invest in prevention today guarantees there will be a need to spend billions in the future.



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Talking Points

- Many of Florida's existing prevention and early intervention initiatives have been very successful. (eg: teen pregnancy, dropout, drug abuse, child abuse prevention programs etc.)
- Research has found children with the skills to make sound decisions and handle problems are less likely to have at-risk behaviors.
- It has been found that children learn those skills from strong, supportive families, but also when they and their families have access to services that enable them to be strong and self-sufficient.
- The safety and well-being of our communities demands that there be adequate services to address today's problems, but investments in prevention and early intervention services will pay huge returns by limiting the need for future budget appropriations and reducing human costs.

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