



February Legislative Chair Report

LOCAL INFORMATION:

General Election

The Missouri General Election will be held on Tuesday April 7th. This is generally when most school districts elect new school board members. Remember PTAs, due to our 501(c)(3) status, cannot support or oppose candidates running for school board. However PTAs can host candidates' forums and publish candidates' questionnaires. Such forums and questionnaires serve a dual function of informing community members about their choices among candidates and demonstrating the value of PTA. If your PTA decides to host a forum or publish a questionnaire remember all candidates must be invited to participate. Occasionally individual candidates will contact PTAs and ask if they can address members during a unit meeting. Under IRS guidelines allowing an individual candidate a platform to speak during a unit meeting is seen as showing preferential treatment. Simply put if a candidate would like to address your membership during an upcoming meeting in order to accommodate that request your unit would also have to invite all the other candidates to address the membership during the same meeting. If you have a candidate who requests access to your membership (via membership lists, ads in newsletters, pass out candidate information, etc.) just let them know that you are unable to accommodate them due to your 501(c)(3) status.

Your school district may also have a Bond or Levy on the April ballot. PTAs can choose to support these issues. If your unit is supporting an issue from which the school district will benefit, such as a bond or levy, please check with your Principal or administration before sending or posting support information on or through services connected with the school; for instance, posting pro-vote information on a PTA website hosted by a district server or sending newsletters with pro-vote articles home via the backpack. There are legal guidelines to which the district must adhere. PTAs need to make sure they do not inadvertently place the district in legal trouble regarding the campaign of a bond or levy. PTAs can also purchase ads of support, pass out yard signs, and submit Ed-ops to local papers.

Of course the best way to support our schools is to encourage members to simply vote. The deadline to register for the April election is March 11th.

Legislative Tweet Day

A great way to reach out to legislators is to hold a Legislative Tweet Day. Pick a day that works for your unit and encourage your members to send your state and

federal representatives tweets about the great things that are happening in your school. Be sure to tag @MissouriPTA – we'd love to retweet you.

STATE INFORMATION:

Missouri General Assembly 2015 Session:

The Missouri Legislative session began on January 7th. Already over a thousand bills have been filed. Several bills address student transfers, school funding (specifically addressing formula funded and hold harmless school districts), and juvenile justice.

The U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Miller v. Alabama*, 2012, ruled that the Eighth Amendment prohibits the sentencing of life without the possibility for parole for juvenile offenders. Missouri's statute is currently in conflict with this ruling and must be amended.

Last session when the legislature failed to address the current statute regarding unaccredited schools and transfers the financial fallout was harsh. Many of the bills filed this session, as it was last session, contain items PTA both supports and opposes. Unfortunately, these types of bills typically end up as 'christmas trees' - the legislator phrase for a bill with pretty much everything but the kitchen sink included. PTA will continue to use our voice to make sure the rights of the students are not diminished. The problems with student transfers need to be corrected with the best interest of every student in mind.

Three years ago the school funding formula was supposed to be completely phased in but the money for the Legislature to do so fell short. The consequence would have been a large amount of money shifted from formula districts to hold harmless districts. Without legislative approval, DESE administratively calculated every district's payment with a pro rata factor. The reasoning – when the economy is down everyone should feel the pain. Last session language in HB1689 took away DESE's pro rata factor. To be fair to both formula funded and hold harmless schools, education needs an additional \$125m. Regardless of whether students are in a formula funded or hold harmless school, public schools in Missouri are underfunded resulting in inequity across the state. While a temporary solution would be to find a way to make sure all districts are treated fairly and equitably, we as a state need to find a way to make sure every public school has the means to give every student that comes through their doors a high quality education. The education our kids receive in all our schools today effect what our state economy will look like in 5, 10, and 15 years. Education is a critical infrastructure needs to be a priority.

NATIONAL INFORMATION:

Student Data Privacy

Student Data has been collected by teachers and administrators since schools, both public and private, came into existence. In order to evaluate a student's progress collecting data has been a vital tool. But, our ability to collect and store data has changed. Technology is a game changer with regard to data privacy. PTA is

committed to making sure our schools and the vendors who provide services to our school regard student data with the upmost integrity. PTA supports the Student Privacy Pledge and committed to educating our members about the pledge and encourage our schools, families, and communities to support the pledge.

K-12 School Service Provider Pledge to Safeguard Student Privacy

K-12 school service providers are honored to be entrusted by educators and families to support their educational needs and school operations. School service providers take responsibility to both support the effective use of student information and safeguard student privacy and information security.

School service providers support schools – including their teachers, students and parents – to manage student data, carry out school operations, support instruction and learning opportunities, and develop and improve products/services intended for educational/school use. In so doing, it is critical that schools and school service providers build trust by effectively protecting the privacy of student information and communicating with parents about how student information is used and safeguarded.

We pledge to carry out responsible stewardship and appropriate use of student personal information according to the commitments below and in adherence to all laws applicable to us as school service providers.

We Commit To:

- ✘ Not collect, maintain, use or share student personal information beyond that needed for authorized educational/school purposes, or as authorized by the parent/student.
- ✘ Not sell student personal information.
- ✘ Not use or disclose student information collected through an educational/school service (whether personal information or otherwise) for behavioral targeting of advertisements to students.
- ✘ Not build a personal profile of a student other than for supporting authorized educational/school purposes or as authorized by the parent/student.
- ✘ Not make material changes to school service provider consumer privacy policies without first providing prominent notice to the account holder(s) (i.e., the educational institution/agency, or the parent/student when the information is collected directly from the student with student/parent consent) and allowing them choices before data is used in any manner inconsistent with terms they were initially provided; and not make material changes to other policies or practices governing the use of student personal information that are inconsistent with contractual requirements.
- ✘ Not knowingly retain student personal information beyond the time period

required to support the authorized educational/school purposes, or as authorized by the parent/student.

- ✓ Collect, use, share, and retain student personal information only for purposes for which we were authorized by the educational institution/agency, teacher or the parent/student.
- ✓ Disclose clearly in contracts or privacy policies, including in a manner easy for parents to understand, what types of student personal information we collect, if any, and the purposes for which the information we maintain is used or shared with third parties.
- ✓ Support access to and correction of student personally identifiable information by the student or their authorized parent, either by assisting the educational institution in meeting its requirements or directly when the information is collected directly from the student with student/parent consent.
- ✓ Maintain a comprehensive security program that is reasonably designed to protect the security, privacy, confidentiality, and integrity of student personal information against risks – such as unauthorized access or use, or unintended or inappropriate disclosure – through the use of administrative, technological, and physical safeguards appropriate to the sensitivity of the information.
- ✓ Require that our vendors with whom student personal information is shared in order to deliver the educational service, if any, are obligated to implement these same commitments for the given student personal information.
- ✓ Allow a successor entity to maintain the student personal information, in the case of our merger or acquisition by another entity, provided the successor entity is subject to these same commitments for the previously collected student personal information.

ESEA Reauthorization

Congress has begun to move forward in the steps required to reauthorize ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act – also referred to as No Child Left Behind). The Senate, who currently has a draft for legislation underway, held committee discussions last week on assessments and teachers. It is very likely the Senate version of ESEA reauthorization will include the Family Engagement and Education Act. For the past two years PTA has successfully introduced the Family Engagement in Education Act, a PTA written bill, in both houses of Congress. As PTA leaders and influencers know well, research demonstrates that family engagement in a child's education increases student achievement, improves attendance, and reduces dropout rates. The Family Engagement in Education Act provides school districts the flexibility to identify programming that works best for individual communities and resources to build effective family engagement strategies.

HOW TO BE AN ADVOCATE:

- Join the JC/DC Network - forms are located in the Tool kit. You can also join online under the 'Act Now' section on the homepage of the Missouri PTA website for Missouri alerts and online at <http://cqrcengage.com/npta2/home> 'PTA take action network' for National PTA alerts.
- PTA has numerous Resolutions that advocate through education. Select a Resolution you can turn into an education opportunity for your members.
- Mark your calendar for Child Advocacy day in Jefferson City on April 1st. Get the word out about this opportunity so members wanting to attend can plan accordingly.
- Do you tweet? Follow Missouri PTA (@MissouriPTA) and National PTA (@NationalPTA).