



LOCAL INFORMATION:

Amendment 3- FAILED TO PASS

Amendment 3 is an initiative ballot measure. This amendment has two major components that affect teachers in public school districts. The first component deals with teacher tenure. This amendment would accentually do away with teacher tenure in public school districts by limiting teacher contracts to a maximum of three years. The second component would require public school districts to institute an evaluation system that would be used to retain, promote, demote, discharge, and determine teacher salaries.

PTAs mission has long been focused on being a voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child. The issue of tenure has never been discussed by our membership, and falls outside of our mission.

PTA does have both a resolution and position statement on teacher and principal evaluation systems. We look to these documents to guide our voice. Based on our voice we do have concerns regarding the evaluation system proposed by this amendment. Amendment 3 requires that the majority of the evaluation system be based on “quantifiable student performance data as measured by objective criteria”. PTA believes in balanced accountability systems that utilize multiple measures in order to improve academic achievement for all students. Such measures of teacher and principal performance should take into account both quantitative and qualitative data. These systems should be designed primarily to improve instruction, increase student learning, and support continuous improvement. In addition the evaluation system should be constructed in a way that all personnel decisions regarding terms and conditions of teacher and principal employment be left to local determination.

You can find the exact wording of Amendment 3 at
<http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/2014petitions/2014-024.pdf>

The PTA Position Statement: Development and Implementation of Teacher and Principal Evaluation Systems can be found at
<http://www.pta.org/about/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3457>

Amendment 2 - PASSED

Amendment 2 would amend the Missouri Constitution to allow relevant evidence of prior criminal acts to be admissible in the prosecution of sexual criminal acts involving a victim under eighteen years of age. The protection of our children should always be of the utmost importance and was the driving factor in the creation of PTA in 1897. PTA has long championed programs and laws designed to afford children who are the victims of abuse greater protection.

You can read the full text of Amendment 2 at

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/2014ballot/HJR16.pdf>

STATE INFORMATION:

Missouri PTA 2015 Legislative Platform:

Each year the Department of Legislation & Advocacy develops a list of legislative priorities by analyzing what took place during the last legislative session and focusing on current issues. The platform encompasses the issues Missouri PTA expects to target for the 2015 Legislative session. As unexpected issues emerge Missouri PTA will respond in accordance with the resolutions and position statements that have been approved by the membership.

Missouri PTA supports:

- Legislation that protects and calls for local control of schools.
- Legislation to strengthen laws designed to protect minors from abuse and increase funding for programs and services aimed at the prevention of child abuse, neglect and maltreatment.
- Legislation that supports increased access to mental health services for children.
- Opposition to tax credits or tax deductions for tuition paid by a parent or sponsors for non-public elementary or secondary school children.
- Enforcement of legislation requiring school districts to have policies that promote increased parental engagement in their children's education.
- Legislation that will maintain or generate local and state funding for public education.

You can also download the list from our website on the Advocacy Resources page of the Legislation section

http://www.mopta.org/legislation/advocacy_resources_page.html).

Missouri General Assembly 2015 Session:

The Missouri Legislative session begins on January 7th. However, legislators will start pre-filling bills during the month of December. As bills emerge that either

support or oppose PTA resolutions and positions they will be added to a 'Bill Watch' list. This list will be available starting late December under the Capitol Chatter page of the Legislation section of the MOPTA website. The list is continually updated throughout the duration of the Missouri Legislative session.

E-Cigarettes and Youth Resolution

On October 19th 2014 the members present at our annual convention adopted the E-Cigarettes and Youth Resolution. This resolution, authored by the Liberty PTA Council, addresses the dangers surrounding e-cigarettes. While the Missouri General Assembly did pass a law this past session prohibiting the sale of e-cigarettes to youth the FDA has yet to issue a ruling on these products. Because of this e-cigarettes are currently unregulated. The amount of targeted advertising directed toward youth is on the rise, and there exists no oversight on the contents or packaging of these products. This resolution will now give Missouri PTA a voice on this issue. The resolution can viewed in the resolution section under Health/safety at <http://mopta.org/category/legislation/resolutions/health-safety/>

NATIONAL INFORMATION:

PTA Celebrates 50 Years of Head Start

National PTA celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Head Start program at an event hosted by the [National Head Start Association](#) on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol. Our own Sherri Wilson, senior manager of family & community engagement, spoke about PTA's deep commitment to increase access to high-quality early education for every child at the event. Head Start—a federal program that provides early childhood education, health, nutrition and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families—has helped more than 30 million children and families. We will continue our support of Head Start in the years to come so that we can help to ensure that every child's potential becomes a reality.

PTA Launches Smart Snacks Webpage

National PTA has officially launched the [Smart Snacks webpage](#) for state and local leaders and PTA members! The webpage contains information regarding the Smart Snacks federal nutrition standards and resources from partner organizations that will assist in implementing the standards.

The National PTA's implementation guide, *A PTAs Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools*, will be distributed to state and local PTAs in the coming weeks. National PTA is also working with key contacts in targeted states to provide education and trainings around the standards to ensure compliance. If you are interested in a web or in-person training for your state or local PTA, contact the School Nutrition Policy Fellow at schoolfoods@pta.org.

PTA Supports Increase in E-rate Funding

National PTA has been working with a wide range of associations in hopes to push the FCC to make a permanent increase to E-rate funding. In a letter addressed to the

FCC, the National PTA—along with more than 30 organizations—requested a permanent increase in funding for the E-rate program to allow schools and public libraries to keep pace with rapidly increasing connectivity demands. The letter also cites three major reasons for increasing funding to the E-rate program:

- Access to 21st century education and learning
- Moving from basic connectivity to capacity
- Equity (focusing on disadvantaged communities)

To learn more about PTA's participation in this coalition, or if you would like a copy of the letter, please contact [Matthew L. Evans](#).