



## January 2018 Legislative Chair Report

### LOCAL INFORMATION:

#### National Data Privacy Day

January 28th is worldwide Privacy Day. Did you know that Missouri PTA has developed a guide to Student Data Privacy? There are four key laws: Family Educational and Privacy Rights Act (FERPA), Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) these laws in combination work to make sure students across Missouri and the United States are protected.

### STATE INFORMATION:

Missouri PTA Legislative Session- Angie Warner, State Legislative Chair:

The 2018 Legislative session began January 3, 2018. This is the 99th General Assembly of Missouri. There are many bills that have been pre-filed that MO PTA will be watching closely below are three that may gain traction in this session.

Powdered Alcohol HB 1248- Patricia Pike would designate powdered alcohol as a controlled substance. MO PTA supports this bill. Powdered alcohol contains 55% alcohol. A percentage much higher than beer (3-10%), wine (8-14%) and the most common spirits (Tequila 40-50%, Vodka 30-50%, and Whisky 40-53.3%). But unlike the liquid forms of alcohol, powdered alcohol is easily concealed by youths and can be mixed in a manner making the end product more harmful to youths.

Powdered Alcohol can be sprinkled onto food products, taken as a pill, snorted, and mixed with alcohol making it even more potent and inhibiting the user's ability to fight off alcohol poisoning. It can also be mixed with caffeinated beverages resulting in a dangerous mix of a depressant and stimulant. This bill would label powdered alcohol an intoxicating substance and will help prevent the ability of youth to purchase this substance.

HB 1255 - Nick Schroer SB 793- Wayne Wallingford

Requires children under the age of 18 to be prosecuted for most criminal offenses in juvenile courts unless the child is certified as an adult. MO PTA supports these bills. These are the bills that we are starting our student advocacy campaign around this month. It has been PTA's long held position to support efforts and legislation that prohibits the incarceration of youth in adult facilities.



## LEGISLATIVE CHAIR REPORT

LSHS PTSA

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### HB 1639 - Dan Stacy

Establishes the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program

MO PTA Opposes this bill. The Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program is a particular concern for PTA because this program would create an account that would allow taxpayers to make a qualifying contribution to an educational assistance organization and claim a tax credit, as described in the act. The tax credit is for one hundred percent of the amount of the contribution. The tax credit may be carried forward for four years and may be transferred, sold, or assigned. The scholarships will be used in private schools effectively creating a voucher system in Missouri.

### HB 1668 - Kathryn Swan

Creates an educational savings plan for K-12 educational expenses.

MO PTA Opposes this bill. The Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program is a particular concern for PTA because this program would create an account that would allow taxpayers to may make a qualifying contribution to an educational assistance organization and claim a tax credit, as described in the act. The tax credit is for one hundred percent of the amount of the contribution. The tax credit may be carried forward for four years and may be transferred, sold, or assigned. The scholarships will be used in private schools effectively creating a voucher system in Missouri.

SB 617- William Eigel and SB 611- Andrew Koenig Each bill contains provisions to dramatically cut state income taxes, beginning in 2019. SB 617 contains an additional provision to completely eliminate income tax over time. MO PTA opposes both these bills. Any bill that decreases income will not be good for education. For the Budget 2019 to fully fund the education formula the education budget is required to increase by \$98 million in in order to remain fully funded and to fund the early childhood initiative. The passing of either of these bills would make it very hard to meet this formula.

In addition, the session will have bills on childhood vaccinations, LGBTQ and legalization of marijuana. As bills begin to progress in the process please be watching for JC/DC Action Alerts and take action. Please encourage your membership sign up for the alerts too. Sign up is easy and just take a few moments. The bigger presence we have with our legislators the more we can advocate for the children of Missouri.

A complete list of bills currently being followed by Missouri PTA can be found on [mopta.org](http://mopta.org) under Advocacy –Capitol Chatter.



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### **HOW TO BE AN ADVOCATE:**

- Join the JC/DC Network - You can also join online under the 'Sign up for the JC/DC Network' link at the bottom of the homepage on the Missouri PTA website for Missouri alerts and online at 'PTA take action network' for National alerts.
- Check out the PTA One Voice Blog
- Do you tweet? Follow Missouri PTA (@MissouriPTA) and National PTA