



NATIONAL **SCHOOL BOARD MEETING** MONTH

SCHOOL BOARD HOW-TO GUIDE FOR PARENTS & CONCERNED CITIZENS

(Almost) Everything you need to know about school boards to make a difference.



TEA PARTY
PATRIOTS
ACTION

www.teapartypatriots.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from Jenny Beth	3
Quick Start Guide	5
The Basics: School Governance	6
Ways to Engage Your School Board	10
How to Write a Letter to the Editor.....	17
Alternate Curriculum	18
Running for School Board	19
Unaccountable School Associations.....	22
The Importance of the PTA & PTO	31
More Information & Resources.....	34
About Tea Party Patriots Action	36

LETTER FROM JENNY BETH

Local and state governments, including local school boards and state boards of education, caused so much destruction and suffering in the way they reacted (and continue to react) to Covid. When the decision was made to take school online, it was the first time many parents got to see what their children were actually being taught. Then, when the videos were shared online, everyone was able to see what their tax dollars were funding.

Parents, grandparents, and other concerned citizens all across America have had enough! [From forcing kids to wear dirty masks all day](#) (and even play sports in them!), to barely teaching them online, to trying to mandate Covid vaccines, to teaching children to hate each other and themselves because of their skin color, and more – the bottom line is, Americans are fed up.

That's why there is a new video, practically every day now, of parents passionately speaking at school board meetings. They eloquently argue for the values and curriculum they want to see taught, and against efforts to indoctrinate or harm their children with bad curriculum and bad policies.

Local school boards are where so much of the action takes place, but for too long, too many of us weren't paying enough attention to them.

Unfortunately, radical activists who want to use your kids for their own political purposes *were* paying attention, and have been using school boards to implement Critical Race Theory and other extremist ideologies for a long time.

But, it's not too late. There are so many parents and community members all over this country who are banding together to take on these out of control school boards. You will also see in this guide that there are some other entities that need our attention, such as the state board of education and private non-profit "associations" that have more influence than you do

That's why we created this how-to guide, to put the most important information you need to know at your fingertips, right now. Knowing is the first part of the battle because you can't fight what you don't know exists, and most people don't have the time to do all the research themselves. We want you to have the knowledge required to defeat the forces who believe *your* children are *their* tools for revolution.

LETTER FROM JENNY BETH (CONT.)

If you happen to live in a district that is run well, count your blessings! But, don't get complacent! The left never rests, and if you aren't proactively working to keep what you have, you will lose it. So, this guide is for you as well. Additionally, you will want to know more about your state board of education and the associations I mentioned above, which are included in this guide too.

We will continue to update this guide as necessary, so you will want to bookmark it and check back frequently for updates.

Lastly, we have named **July National Attend a School Board Meeting Month**. Use this guide to help you prepare for the July meeting, and [make a commitment today to attend by filling out our form!](#)

I hope you find this guide useful, and I'd love to hear about how you were able to use it!

In liberty,



Jenny Beth Martin

QUICK START GUIDE

- 1** [Research the basics](#) of your school board *and* state board of education. [Use this list](#) as a starting point to help you know which information to gather.

- 2** Start organizing and mobilizing people on whatever the issue(s) may be. For instance, many school boards and virtually every state board of education supports Critical Race Theory and *they will implement it* (not necessarily as a curriculum, but at the very least, as a way of teaching and thinking). **Whether you want to influence policy on masks, in-person school, Critical Race Theory, or anything else, this mostly requires talking to other parents/community members who agree with you, and then go from there – build a team and decide what your goals are before you launch your plan.**

Possible activities include organizing [calls](#), [emails](#), meeting with the principal and others privately, [rallies](#), [attending the meetings](#), running candidates of your own, [getting high-level officeholders](#) to weigh in and put pressure on these boards (i.e. if the state board members are appointed by the governor, pressure the governor), [filing public records requests](#), raising money for campaigns, passing resolutions and legislation at the local and state level in support of or opposition to what you want, [join the PTA or PTO, and others](#). This toolkit contains most of the information you need to get started with a lot of these activities.

- 3** Look through and send people our issue toolkits that contain resources specific to that issue. For example, our [anti-Critical Race Theory \(CRT\) toolkit](#) provides sample letters to the school board, governor, members of Congress, newspaper, etc. all on the topic of CRT.

- 4** Figure out if your school board and your state board of education are a part of their [related professional associations](#). These associations are left-wing, very influential, likely fronts for teacher union lobbying, and get some of your tax dollars to do it. You can find information about these associations [on page 21 of this guide](#).

- 5** **Be brave! You can do this!** You don't have an option to sit back and ignore what is happening to America's children, whether or not you have kids in public schools.

THE BASICS: SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

WHAT IS A SCHOOL BOARD AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

Ballotpedia [describes school boards](#) in the following way –

A school board is the governing body of a school district responsible for establishing the policies and regulations by which their local schools are run. Depending on the school district, school boards may have different titles, such as board of education, board of directors, board of trustees, school board, or school board committee. Regardless of the title, all school boards are comprised of elected or appointed members who work together to oversee their districts.

While the duties of school boards are often similar, the way board members are chosen, the length and number of board terms, and the number of board positions varies widely from district to district and state to state. School board members are elected in one of two ways: at large or by district. In an at-large school board election, all registered voters in the school district may vote for any of the candidates on the ballot. Elections may also be held by district, in which only the registered voters of a particular geographic area may vote for a particular seat up for election.

Some school boards are appointed rather than elected. Appointments are most often made by either a city's mayor or the state department of education. In Chicago Public Schools, board members have been appointed by the mayor since 1995, while the Little Rock School District school board has been governed by the Arkansas Department of Education since 2015. The reasons for school board member appointment, rather than election, may include district fiscal distress, charges of corruption on the school board, or poor academic performance in the district.

Often, you will see the words “vision” and “goals” in descriptions about school boards and what they do. We found a commonly used analogy to explain one responsibility of the school board is to say that the school board provides the goal or destination for the district, and then mostly leaves it up to the superintendent and faculty to decide which path to take to get there.

One of the primary duties of the school board is to hire a superintendent for the district. School boards set the standards for school and superintendent performance, and hold the superintendent responsible for implementing the policies and achieving the goals.

Note that the school board does **not** operate the district on a day-to-day basis. Rather, that is the job of the superintendent.

School board members make up the largest body of elected officials in the United States; there are something like 95,000 positions school board nationwide.

THE BASICS: SCHOOL GOVERNANCE (CONT.)

Running For School Board [provides the following list](#) summing up the most common responsibilities of a school board.

A board's primary responsibilities vary from district to district, but generally include:

- *Sets the vision and goals for the district*
- *Adopts policies and setting priorities to achieve its goals*
- *Sets student performance standards*
- *Establishes school budgets*
- *Approves the school calendar*
- *Adopts curriculum*
- *Evaluates and/or hires the superintendent*
- *Selects transportation systems*
- *Approves contracts with outside vendors*
- *Manage collective bargaining for district employees*

Ballotpedia also [describes a school board's authority](#) as follows –

The sovereignty of school boards differs from district to district and state to state. Some school boards have the authority to set and levy tax rates; others may only have the authority to recommend such measures to a legislative body, government official or to the community in the form of a referendum. In some districts, especially smaller or more rural districts, school boards may be involved in all personnel decisions. School boards are most often only responsible for the appointment and dismissal of the district superintendent to whom they delegate the routine operations of the district.

In most districts, board members only hold "collective" authority when they meet and act as a board, not when they act as individuals. Many states publish guidelines for the conduct of board members. In some states, school boards have the power to invoke eminent domain to seize private property for school usage; however, such powers have also been challenged in the court system.

Lastly, [a good tip we saw](#) on Public School Review was, **"Always remember that members of the school board are elected to work for the parents."**

Don't let anyone make you feel like you are wasting their time, or that they know better than you, or that they are more important than you, or that they are above you somehow. Their job is literally to work for you, listen to you, and work to implement policies that parents want – not what left-wing activists demand.

THE BASICS: SCHOOL GOVERNANCE (CONT.)

WHAT IS A SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT?

A local school superintendent is not the same as the superintendent of schools. A [superintendent of schools](#) is the following –

The superintendent of schools, also known as the superintendent of education, superintendent of public instruction, secretary of education, or chief school administrator, is a statewide office responsible for overseeing and coordinating the state's elementary and secondary schools.

The local school superintendent, however, is like a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of one school district, and is someone that you will need to research and likely interact with as you seek to influence your local school and the district. You may also find that you and your network will need to work to replace this person if he or she is leading your district in a negative direction.

ZipRecruiter provides [the following job description](#) for school superintendent –

A school superintendent fulfills the chief executive officer role for a public K-12 school system, either at the city or district level. As a school superintendent, job duties are to monitor the operation of the school district and make high-level decisions about spending, educational programs, staff, and facilities. Responsibilities are to the school board, staff, and the community of taxpayers, parents, and students who are part of the school district. School superintendents typically recruit and hire central office staff and school administration officials like principals and possibly assistant principals with the school board's approval.

There may be small differences from district to district, but the above description covers most of the duties of a school superintendent.

WHAT IS THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION?

Every state has a state board of education, and again, it's a body that you will want to research in your efforts to influence public education in your state. [The following explanation](#) comes from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), which is an organization that we will discuss in another section on various associations. While their description of state boards of education is accurate, there are things you are going to want to know about them, as they currently have a lot more influence than you do.

State boards of education are different in every state and have diverse policy authority. Some are created by the state constitution and others by statute. Some of their members are elected; some are appointed. In many states, it is the state board who selects the state education chief. In others, it is the governor. In 45 states, the state board adopts learning standards that all students are expected to achieve. In 31 states, state boards have primary authority over state summative assessments. In addition, most SBEs have the following authority:

THE BASICS: SCHOOL GOVERNANCE (CONT.)

- *establishing high school graduation requirements;*
- *determining qualifications for professional education personnel;*
- *establishing state accountability and assessment programs; and*
- *establishing standards for accreditation of local school districts and preparation programs for teachers and administrators.*

Regardless of their level of authority, all boards and board members have three important powers: (1) authority for adopting and revising policies that promote educational excellence and equity, (2) convening experts and stakeholders to serve as a bridge between policymakers and citizens, and (3) the power to raise questions as the citizens' voice in education.

(Notice the use of the word "equity" above - more on that later.) The NASBE [has put together a chart](#) that lists every state and information about their state boards of education. While you will see in the section on associations that NASBE does not actually represent "the citizens' voice in education," this simple chart contains factual information that we can utilize, so we are going to use it. It tells you how members of your state board are chosen, how long the terms last, and more.

CONTACT INFORMATION TO GATHER

Below is a [suggested list of non-school board contact information](#) to gather that will also be helpful.

- ➡ **School telephone number and school secretary name**
- ➡ **PTA president name, telephone number and email address**
- ➡ **School newsletter frequency**
- ➡ **Principal email address**
- ➡ **School Web site URL**
- ➡ **Teacher email addresses and voice mail telephone numbers, if available**

WAYS TO ENGAGE YOUR SCHOOL BOARD

If you are wondering when it is appropriate to contact your school board, remember that it is the school board that has authority over curriculum choices and district-wide policies. So, if there are concerns relating to the school's policies or curriculum, the elected school board is the only faction with the authority to modify existing policies.

If it is a specific worksheet, you might want to start with the teacher and the principal. However, if they are unresponsive or hostile, you should feel empowered to move up the chain to the superintendent and the school board.

There are several ways to approach your school board and engage with them, whether you are happy or unhappy with their actions. Some of the options below are simple, and others include extra information to help you get it right.

ATTEND SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

First, [we compiled a list](#) of information you will want to research about your school board and probably your state board of education as well before you attend any meetings.

Find this information now and save it so that you have what you need long before you need it.

Try to record your comments at the meeting. Whether you record yourself or bring someone with you to film you, please document your comments and send it to us (photos@teapartypatriots.org) or post it online and tag us with [@TPPatriots](#).

Another resource about attending school board meetings comes from a great organization, [Parents Defending Education](#). We've included their list below, but be sure to visit their site to check out all of the other amazing resources they provide!

- **How to Speak to Your School Board**

Communicate clearly and directly with your school board members. Tell your story. Establish who you are, and why you care. Let them know that you're a neighbor. Be prepared. You will not have time to decide what to say once your time starts. Have a prepared statement to speak from. If you are speaking online and want to read your testimony, put it up on your video screen and read from the screen so your eyes are still in the direction of the camera, not looking down at a piece of paper.

- **How to find your school board calendar and key dates**

Find your official school district website. Find the link to the school board website. If you can't find it, put the name of your school district and "school board" in a search engine. The calendar should always be on the school district's website.

WAYS TO ENGAGE YOUR SCHOOL BOARD (CONT.)

- **How to register to speak at a school board meeting**

At the school board website, look for “Citizen Participation” or a similar option. Once you select this option, you will see a button or link to “Register to Speak at Regular School Board meeting” or something along those lines.

You may be able to submit a video testimony – but if this option exists, you’ll usually need to sign up several days in advance. Find out what the deadline is! Some districts have a designated time when speaker registration opens – it depends on the system, but might be early, like 6 a.m. Speaking spots can fill up in seconds, so keep an eye on when registration opens, set your alarm, and claim your spot!

Speaking slots are usually limited to a certain length of time (for example, three minutes). Make sure you hit the mark with time to spare. You don’t want to get cut off mid-sentence.

- **How to talk to your school board**

Communicate clearly and directly with your school board members. Tell your story. Establish who you are, and why you care. Let them know that you’re a neighbor. Be prepared. You will not have time to decide what to say once your time starts. Have a prepared statement to speak from. If you are speaking online and want to read your testimony, put it up on your video screen and read from the screen so your eyes are still in the direction of the camera, not looking down at a piece of paper.

- **Questions to ask school officials (school board, superintendent, principal, etc.)**

- ❓ What are the upcoming issues your school board will be debating and discussing?
- ❓ How will information about XYZ issues be communicated to the public?
- ❓ When will public engagement sessions be and how will those be communicated?
- ❓ How was this policy determined to be in the best interest of our students?
- ❓ How do I opt out my student from this topic/lesson/project?
- ❓ How much was consultant XYZ paid? Where can I see their contract?
- ❓ Where and how will school board meeting minutes be shared?

Another organization, albeit a left-wing one, also has some great tips for attending a school board meeting. This one is called [Student Voice](#), and you may also be interested in perusing their site to see how they want to indoctrinate students. Despite our ideological disagreements with them, we will share their tips list!

WAYS TO ENGAGE YOUR SCHOOL BOARD (CONT.)

- **Testify at a meeting**

1. Prepare ahead.
2. Identify the issue.
3. Research the issue.
4. Propose a course of action.
5. Write your testimony.
6. Stay calm and confident.

- **Create a petition**

Creating a petition about an issue you care about within your school can be an excellent way to show that there is popular support for taking action within your community. A petition to a school board includes a statement about an issue and a list of proposed ways for the school board to take action on the issue. A petition can be formatted like a testimony to your school board would be—with a story about why the issue matters to you, anecdotal or concrete evidence about why addressing the issue is important and possible solutions or action that you seek.

Also, find out if they allow signs in the meeting or not. If they do, make some signs to take with you! If they don't, and you are able, make t-shirts with the most important message you want to get across printed on them.

Finally, *Great Schools* has [a nice list of 5 easy steps](#) to help you become more involved with your school board that you can also check out.

For the following activities, we have samples and templates that you can use to help you with knowing what to say, and to make it easier and faster for you to get it done. Simply go through our other, issue-based toolkits to find the templates and samples. *We will update this list as we produce more issue toolkits.*

United We Stand: For Content of Character and Against Critical Race Theory

<https://tpp.us/uwsguide>

EMAIL/WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR SCHOOL BOARD

Usually school board members have public email addresses that are listed on the school board website, so you can use that to email them. Sometimes there is just one email address for the whole board. They may also have a phone number listed.

WAYS TO ENGAGE YOUR SCHOOL BOARD (CONT.)

You can use our sample letter, or if you'd like to write your own letter from scratch, or on a topic we do not yet have written, below are some [general tips for writing to your school board](#). You can write to the entire board or just to one board member, and remember to be respectful, logical, and well-organized. Note that respectfulness and politeness do not mean you cannot be passionate or strong. You can be all of those at the same time.

General tips for writing a letter/email to your school board

Introduce yourself: Let them know if you are a parent, teacher, or another member of the community, and the subject of your concern. If there is anything positive that you can say about the school or the district, include it here, to balance out your letter. Include a statement stating you are confident that they will address your concerns seriously.

State your purpose: Use a voice of authority and write with confidence. Ask yourself these questions as you organize your letter.

- ❓ Why are you writing this letter?
- ❓ What are your questions and/or concerns?
- ❓ What actions do you want the board to take?

Present your concerns: Explain the situation or concern. Include details if you have them, especially any that specifically relate to your school (did a teacher bring CRT into your child's classroom?) Include relevant supporting documentation (for example, include copies of troublesome worksheet or links to questionable videos).

Identify how you would like the problem resolved: Include your solutions to the problem! Don't leave it up to them to come up with one if you have one in mind that you prefer. **However**, you don't necessarily need to come up with the perfect solution beforehand either. If you don't have a solution, don't let that stop you from bringing your concern to the school board. It's most important to let them know what's wrong, and then later you can help with the solution.

Thank them for their time: Even if you are angry with the school board and what is happening, try to say thank you and end the letter respectfully. They are more likely to listen to you this way, and at the very least, they won't be able to use your letter to make your side look bad.

Final steps: Spell and grammar check your text, or ask someone to edit your letter to ensure it is error-free. Before pressing send or submit, take a minute to re-read it. If the tone is wrong, wait a little and then edit it. Make sure to date the letter and ask for a response. Provide your contact information, including your email address and phone number to make sure they have everything they need to provide a response. Finally, keep a copy of all correspondence for your records as a reference for future communication.

WAYS TO ENGAGE YOUR SCHOOL BOARD (CONT.)

You can also send your letter to other parents and concerned citizens as a template for them to use to write their own. Or, you can send them just the main points, from which they can craft their own letters.

CALL YOUR SCHOOL BOARD

If you find a phone number to call, we recommend writing out what you want to say before you call. If you want to write your own script, use the tips above to write it. If you want to use our script as a template, be sure to check out our other, issue-based toolkits. This way it will be well-organized, have the right tone, and you won't forget anything. Use this script whether you speak to someone or leave a message. Just remember that if you are speaking to a live person, he or she may interrupt you, argue with you, ask you questions, etc. This is fine, just be prepared for the possibility that you won't get to just read your script and be done, as you would if leaving a message.

You may want to organize a lot of calls into the school board by asking other parents and concerned citizens to call if a particular vote is coming up, or if you know they will be discussing something of concern at an upcoming meeting. If you do this, send the other people making calls the phone number(s) to call and either talking points or a sample script. They will be more likely to call if they know what to say.

USE SOCIAL MEDIA

You can use social media in a variety of ways, but we will focus on two of them in this guide.

Mobilize large numbers of parents/community members in a short amount of time.

This is a big reason why social media is helpful. You don't have to necessarily have all of the other parents' contact information, but you can still organize and mobilize them quickly. You can start a Facebook group, for instance, and once you invite even just a few people, they can invite others, and so on.

WARNING: *If you rely solely on a platform like Facebook to organize and you do not gather email addresses and/or phone numbers right away, as people join the group, you risk losing all of your contacts and work if Facebook decides to shut your group down. Facebook is shutting groups down that they don't like, so this is a real possibility. However, it's a good organizing tool, and you can backup your network by requiring people to give you their email address before they are allowed to join.*

This is a great how-to article about [how to start a Facebook group](#) and increase it's reach.

You can ask for an email address as a part of the membership requirements to join your group – look for that option when you are creating the group. Be sure to mention that you are asking for it in case Facebook shuts the group down, so you have a way to continue communicating as a group.

WAYS TO ENGAGE YOUR SCHOOL BOARD (CONT.)

Post comments and feedback on school, school board, and school district Facebook pages; on members' official pages, and respond on Twitter. Send direct messages through social media platforms.

Use the search function on Facebook and Twitter to find pages/accounts for your school, your school board, your school district, and the school board members' official pages.

Not every school will have a page or account, not every school board will have a page or account, etc. If you can't find it, try using an internet search engine (we like Duck Duck Go, not Google) to search by entering the name of the school/school district + the word Facebook or Twitter.

When it comes to the school board members, only leave comments on their official pages. Again, use the search functions or use an internet search engine to search their names or try their names plus the name of the school or school district.

WARNING: Any comments you post or messages you send are public or can be shared publicly.

You do not want to ruin your credibility or give your opposition ammunition against you and the other people working with you by leaving rude, graphic, vulgar, obscene, or false comments or messages. Always tell the truth, and while you can be passionate and firm, be polite. Finally, if someone comments back to you and says something nasty or rude, don't worry about engaging with them. Don't waste your time responding to people deliberately trying to get under your skin. Just keep posting your facts and ignore the "trolls."

You can use the sample social media posts in each issue toolkit that we've published, or you can write your own.

OTHER MOBILIZING ACTIVITIES

There are other activities and ways to mobilize parents and concerned citizens besides speaking at a school board meeting or working online through social media. You can –

- ➡ Create flyers about upcoming meetings or events
- ➡ Start an email or snail mail list
- ➡ Speak with other parents before and after school
- ➡ Hold rallies/sign waving events ahead of school board meetings
- ➡ Email friends and families educating them on the issues and inviting them to events

In fact, if there are parents who are uncomfortable speaking at a meeting, but would like to stand outside the meeting with signs, that is great! Everyone has a talent and something to give, and when people are doing things they're good at and things they like, they are more likely to keep helping.

WAYS TO ENGAGE YOUR SCHOOL BOARD (CONT.)

You can find sample sign messages and email templates for friends and family in our issue toolkits as well, or you can write your own.

WRITE TO YOUR STATE AND FEDERALLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

The point of all of this activity is to influence and push your school board members to do the right thing. You will potentially be more effective if you can apply pressure from the grassroots/ voters and from elected officials who hold higher offices at the same time.

To make this easier, we have included template letters to other kinds of elected officials like Governors and federal Senators and Representatives in our issue toolkits. Use these templates to help you craft a letter to other elected officials to persuade them to take a stand for what is right, and hopefully that will help you push your school board in the right direction.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Writing a letter to the editor is an old-fashioned way to drum up support or opposition to an issue, piece of legislation, or cultural movement – and it's a good tool to use. It's also useful to publicly put pressure on elected officials, including your school board members and superintendent. Lastly, it shows likeminded people that they aren't alone. It can inspire them and lead them to get involved.

Our issue toolkits have a letter to the editor template that you can use. We recommend that you edit the letter so that more people can use it and get their letters published. It may also be more persuasive if you are able to edit it to apply more specifically to your school/school district.

Or, if you would like to write your own letter to the editor from scratch, please see our guide on writing letters to the editor on the next page.

HOW TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What is a Letter to the Editor?

A letter to the editor is a letter written to the Editor of a newspaper. The letter is an opportunity for you to express your opinion about a recent article published in the paper or an issue in the news.

Writing letters to the editor is an important engagement tool for activists. They allow activists to do the following:



1) Reach a broader audience than you normally would have;



2) Hold your local journalists accountable;



3) Present alternative views on political issues.

Letters to the editor are usually found in the first section of the newspaper or on the editorial page.



GUIDELINES FOR GETTING A LETTER TO THE EDITOR PUBLISHED

Most newspapers publish guidelines with their specific requirements for getting a letter published, but here are some general rules that will help you get your letter to the editor published.

- **Include your name and address and a telephone number** where you can be reached.
- **Be respectful and courteous**, even when disagreeing with the Editorial Board about a specific issue.
- **Be specific.** If you are opposed to Obamacare, mention the specific reasons why. Provide examples.
- **Cite your sources.** If you include any quoted material, be sure to correctly cite your source or attribute the quote.
- **Use proper grammar.** Spellcheck your letter and be sure to use proper grammar. Refer to The Elements of Style for a great overview of effective writing.
- **Be concise.** Letters to the editor are much more likely to be published if they are 300 words or less. Make your point as clearly and concisely as possible.

One accusation you will likely face as you attempt to push your school board in the right direction, is that you are trying to deprive students of something. This is an especially common accusation when it comes to Critical Race Theory. Proponents will say that you are trying to hide America's past, and that you are depriving kids of learning real history. This is obviously not true, and there are many ways to combat this accusation, but one easy way is to suggest an alternate curriculum that does actually teach truth.

In this section, we will list alternatives to bad curriculum, so that you can come to meetings and discussions proactively with solutions. As we find more, we will update the toolkit and add them.

STUDENT CURRICULUM OR PROGRAMS

- [!\[\]\(aca6fcc8bd95e8255b9ea1b1d08ef300_img.jpg\) 1776 Unites](#)
- [!\[\]\(0083087c61cec498ac803a4aec5bb1bd_img.jpg\) Jack Miller Center](#)
- [!\[\]\(2e94242fda9f31152eb2b29146bfce46_img.jpg\) Bill of Rights Institute](#)
- [!\[\]\(680c68b4e62fe5ec9774c1168e904fbf_img.jpg\) Ashbrook Center](#)

TEACHER TRAINING

- [!\[\]\(79de0df6c6ddd2d4eb74f1cc5f48ec50_img.jpg\) Institute for Classical Education](#)
- [!\[\]\(d4c9768318b38eff1042b07478e20b4c_img.jpg\) Jack Miller Center](#)
- [!\[\]\(27d314856359a9d7feca17161bc1f4a4_img.jpg\) Bill of Rights Institute](#)
- [!\[\]\(d355663486c698e3972a8b93ac8b2102_img.jpg\) Ashbrook Center](#)

RUNNING FOR SCHOOL BOARD

What if your local school board is just rotten? What if you've tried all of the other tactics – you've shown up to meetings, written emails and called them, mobilized other people, persuaded your member of Congress to fight on your side – but the school board refuses to listen – what then? What if there are hundreds of families in the district who are fighting the school board and the school board members just don't care?

At that point, it might be time for you to run for the school board! Or, maybe it's your spouse, or a close friend of yours that will run. At some point, it may be time to replace the current school board members with new ones, and it's not as hard as you might think!

Below are the best resources we could find to help you run for school board, so that you can replace members who have a political agenda and want to use your kids to achieve it!

RUNNING FOR SCHOOL BOARD RESOURCES

- 🔗 [Parents Defending Education](#) has a [fantastic and short guide](#) that you can use to help you or someone you know run for the school board. We recommend you check it out.
- 🔗 [Running for School Board](#) is also a [website](#) that provides campaign websites and other campaign resources that offers some good, free information about running for the school board. We don't know anything about their paid services, but the free information that's available on the website is helpful.
- 🔗 [Run for Office](#) is another [website](#), and a really neat one at that! You simply enter your street address, and it will give you a list of all the offices you're eligible to run for based on where you live. So, for school board elections, it tells you which school board positions exist, the date of the next election, and the filing dates. Click on that position and it has application guidelines and where to submit the application to run. It makes it so easy!
- 🔗 [Ballotpedia](#) also has a [map](#) that covers school board elections in the 200 largest school districts by student enrollment and the school districts that overlap the 100 largest cities by population.
- 🔗 [XQ Rethink Together](#) has a [page with tips](#) on how to run a school board campaign. Note that XQ Rethink Together is a group founded by progressives and may not share your goals for education. However, their guide for running a school board campaign is still useful – so use it.

RUNNING FOR SCHOOL BOARD (CONT.)

You will want to get started with your research and preparation as soon as you decide to run. You will need to know filing deadlines and where to turn in your application to run, and much more.

The resources above will help walk you through those steps, but you will also need to research your school district to find out information that is specific to your schools and school district.

Finally, if you are interested in running for the school board, fill out the [Tea Party Patriots Action Running for Local Office Form](#). We will be organizing in-person training events across the country soon, and we would love for you to attend!

CASE STUDIES

There are two recent case studies that you can look to for inspiration and tips, should you (or someone you know and support) decide to run for school board.

Southlake, TX

The first one comes to us from Southlake, TX. Their story was in the news a lot, so you may have already heard of it, but we encourage you to read a report below about what they did to begin the process of taking back their school board. You will be shocked and disgusted to learn about what their school board was trying to sneak into the schools. But you will be inspired to see what they did in response. The citizens behind the effort have also generously offered an email address for you to email them with questions, because they want to see what they did replicated across the country.

- ➔ You need to read: [How Southlake, Texas, Won Its Battle against Critical Race Theory](#)
- ➔ You can email them at info@southlakefamilies.org.

Shasta County, CA

The Shasta County, CA board of supervisors, like so many state and local governments, used Covid to grow government, waste taxpayer money, and deprive the people of their God-given rights.

The citizens of Shasta County said, no more. Together, they formed what they are calling [the "Red, White + Blueprint,"](#) and are recalling three power-hungry supervisors who refuse to listen to the people they are supposed to represent.

The very interesting thing about what they are doing in Shasta County is that they have turned their efforts into a docuseries, filmed and produced in real time.



RUNNING FOR SCHOOL BOARD (CONT.)

[They have posted the first three episodes online](#) and they are free to watch. Their hope is that you can learn from what they are doing, because much like the citizens in Southlake, TX, they want to see this replicated across the nation. And, it doesn't hurt that the episodes are professionally produced and so entertaining! **New episodes are released the last Friday of every month.**

Their efforts to recall the supervisors and to fight for transparency – to root out the corruption – provide lessons for you, should you decide to recall school board members or other local government elected officials.

There's [another story out of Colorado](#), as well as the parents who are fighting back in [Loudon County, VA](#). There are others percolating out there as well, so keep your eyes on the news!

FINAL CONSIDERATION

If you decide you want to run for school board, you may want to consider locking down your personal social media accounts and making them more neutral. If your strategy is to be able to get into the state and national associations, it may take going incognito at first. Talk to trusted friends and advisors and do it *before* you announce or tell too many people you are running. You can also always reach out and ask us about this topic as well.

UNACCOUNTABLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

During our research for this toolkit, we stumbled across a number of “associations” and “councils” that most Americans probably have no idea exist. Furthermore, these associations claim to speak for you on matters of public education, and are likely more influential than you and other parents/concerned citizens. We felt that educating you about these associations was vital to your efforts to take control of your local schools and school district.

In effect, these associations appear to mostly be lobbying organizations, and because they require dues from members, and those dues are funded by local taxpayers, you are paying for their lobbying efforts. You should probably know what they are lobbying for and against, and have a say in it, right?

There are regional, state, and national associations. The national association is openly and heavily invested in and advocates for the ideas and policies that you are trying to fight – like Critical Race Theory. They also receive funding from large corporations, most of which are “woke” and consistently push left-wing causes like Black Lives Matters and boys playing in girls’ sports. In some cases, they also list their “partners,” which are left-wing nonprofits.

So, you can guess how much they actually represent your views. Maybe here and there, you might agree with them, but we believe that the more you find out about them, the more you will realize that these associations are part of the bureaucratic, back-room rot that many people call the deep state.

While we have included some details in this guide, we strongly encourage you to read through their websites on your own and dig into who they are, what they do, what they believe, what they are saying in your name, and how are they are influencing and affecting your local school district. In fact, download what you find, because it is very possible that they may begin removing content once they realize we are on to them.

Note that we did not look at every state’s association, so you will need to figure out what positions yours take and if they really are on your side. Multiple that we looked at, even in red states, had references to “equity” and “diversity” and other left-wing ideas (our [Critical Race Theory toolkit](#) explains the definitions for these terms because they don’t mean what you think they mean).

Your regional or state association might be just fine, but chances are, they are likely doing and saying things that are not in line with your values. It may take some digging on their website to find it, but keep looking.

And, while these associations influence federal legislation and education policy, it will likely be easier to take them on and dismantle them if we address it at the local level first.

You’ll see that the first set of associations highlighted are those for local school boards. The second set of associations are those for state government boards of education – in some states called boards of regents.

UNACCOUNTABLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS (CONT.)

REGIONAL & STATE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATIONS

In our research, we couldn't find websites for any regional school boards associations, but we found references to their meetings on some of the state-level websites, as well as referenced in membership requirements for the state and national associations.

To find your state school board association, simply use an internet search engine, and type in your state's name + the words "school boards association."

Once you find it, comb through their website. Look at their mission, values, priorities, legislative advocacy, strategic plans, reports, etc. And, as stated earlier, download and screenshot what you can in case they decide later to remove incriminating evidence of their positions and actions.

For instance, listed below are several of the [Texas Association of School Boards' legislative priorities](#).

➔ **Charter Schools**

TASB calls upon the Texas Legislature to prohibit the expansion of charter schools, to reduce the impact charter schools have on the state budget and on local public schools, and to increase the transparency of charter schools and their operators, especially with regard to enrollment and expulsion practices, business operations, and expenditures. The state should require charters to have publicly elected board members who are accountable to the communities they serve.

➔ **Diversity and Cultural Awareness**

TASB calls upon the Texas Legislature to support diversity and cultural awareness initiatives throughout districts through staff and student education and restorative teaching and disciplinary practices that treat all students with equality. We also call on the Legislature and State Board of Education to evaluate the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for accurate and complete education as it pertains to all cultures that have contributed to the rich history of Texas and the United States.

➔ **Governance**

TASB calls upon the Texas Legislature to recognize and preserve the right of public school boards to associate and collaborate with each other and to communicate the needs of their students and schools, both directly and through representative organizations, with lawmakers.

➔ **Vouchers**

TASB calls upon the Texas Legislature to prevent any transfer of public education funds through the use of vouchers, savings accounts, or tax credits to private or out-of-state entities, including the unfettered expansion of virtual instruction by corporations.

UNACCOUNTABLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS (CONT.)

Texans, do you oppose charter schools? Do you oppose vouchers? Do you know how your school board members voted on these priorities? Is it the job of your locally-elected officials to lobby the state government through a private organization on your behalf if you have not asked or given them permission? What are their definitions of diversity and cultural awareness? What about other points like “restorative teaching?” How do they define that and do Texans agree with it? And notice how they want the state government to protect their existence and ability to lobby, just in case you and your friends try to stop them.

This association gets to go to the Texas legislature and say that they represent school boards in Texas, and by extension, parents, students, and other community members. That carries a lot of weight. You, on the other hand, represent one person, one family. Which one do you think has more influence?

As of right now, many school boards are simply extensions of the teacher’s unions, and therefore, their priorities and values reflect those of the unions (which are left-wing), not parents and students.

This is going on in every state, and we believe that what have listed is just the tip of the iceberg.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (NSBA)

The local school boards feed into the regional school boards associations, which feed into the state associations, which all feed into the national association. A recurring theme throughout all of their materials is that they “represent 50 million students” and “14,000 school districts.”

This is the clout that they use to influence state legislators and members of Congress.

Their headquarters is located right outside Washington, D.C. for easy access to your Representative and Senators.

As you keep digging, you will see the [opportunities for corporations to “support” the NSBA](#), their various initiatives, and are given honorary memberships to the NSBA racial councils. We tried to find a list of sponsors, but were unable to find one for NSBA.

There is too much to discuss in this guide. It is web of rabbit holes, with one initiative leading to another and another, and the organizations that work with the NSBA are shocking... but to give you an idea of where they stand on various topics, we’ve included items we found to be... interesting.

In no particular order, we present to you...

- **July 2021 Equity Online Symposium.** The theme is [“Actions for Safe and Inclusive Schools.”](#) It looks like they held the last one in February. As you will see, they spend [a lot of time on “equity.”](#)

UNACCOUNTABLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS (CONT.)

- **Speaking of “safe schools,” check out the NSBA’s [Center for Safe Schools](#).** While you’re there, you might want to read about [“Whole Child Health.”](#) Their key components of “Whole Child Health” include school climate, social emotional learning, restorative justice, and mental health, among others. While these names are meant to sound neutral or positive, in reality, once you learn the definitions, you’ll realize these are trojan horses for Critical Race Theory.

In fact, “safety” and “mental health” are being quietly redefined in a racial and Critical Race Theory context. Many of the NSBA’s linked resources come from a group called [“Mental Health America.”](#) Look at their website. They are a total left-wing organization. Their website is filled with “anti-racism,” hard-core LGBTQ advocacy, and more. One of their recent social media posts shared an article titled, “Decolonizing Therapy: Why an Apolitical Mental Health System Doesn’t Work.” The quote they chose to highlight said, “This individualism-focused mental health system is further perpetuating the oppression of particular groups.” **This is Critical Race Theory!!** Again, [please look at our toolkit](#) about fighting Critical Race Theory (CRT) to understand better how CRT erases individuals and forces everyone into groups. Everything is about groups, not individuals.

Why is the organization that supposedly represents America’s school districts using and sharing resources from radically left-wing organizations like Mental Health America?

- **[Advocacy Institute Online 2021.](#)** This is NSBA’s training for legislative advocacy. One session they had was titled, “Special Training—Best Practices for Lobbying Capitol Hill.” Lobbying who? Lobbying for or against what?
- **[Center for Public Education.](#)** This is yet another “initiative” of the NSBA. It is anti-school choice and anti-voucher, as outlined on their [legislative priorities page](#). They also produce research that they send to school boards across the country to influence them. One resource they highlight is a [toolkit](#) to send to legislators about rejecting vouchers that allow kids to go to private schools. The toolkit was created in January of 2021 by an outfit called the [“National Coalition for Public Education”](#) (NCPE). NCPE exists solely to oppose vouchers going to private schools, and weirdly, their website is maintained by another group, [“Americans United for Separation of Church and State,”](#) which is a rabidly left-wing group that advocates against even the most modest religious liberty claims. One example – they support “The Equality Act,” which is an insane, unconstitutional piece of garbage that would decimate the 1st Amendment. Why is the National School Board Association aligning itself with this sort of group?
- **[DIRE: Dismantling Institutional Racism in Education.](#)** Yet another NSBA initiative. Here is their explanation of DIRE (we added links to definitions for some of the words, so that you can see what they mean in a Critical context).

UNACCOUNTABLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS (CONT.)

As schools across the country responded to acts of [systemic racism](#) in the summer of 2020, NSBA launched the Dismantling Institutional Racism in Education (DIRE) initiative to assist state school boards associations and other education leaders in addressing racial inequities.

DIRE acknowledges that institutional, structural, and systemic racism has been engrained in the history of America and throughout its public education system. It is dedicated to understanding and recognizing the root causes of barriers to [equitable](#) educational outcomes for each child.

The nation's school boards are uniquely positioned to accomplish this task. School boards set goals, approve policies, adopt curriculum, set budgets, and oversee administrative aspects for their local schools. They also serve as a direct line of communication from the community to the school. School boards are responsible for fulfilling the promise of public education.

In 2017, the NSBA Board of Directors adopted the following definition of equity:

We affirm in our actions that each student can, will, and shall learn. We recognize that based on factors including but not limited to disability, race, ethnicity, and socio-economic status, students are often deprived of equitable educational opportunities. Educational equity is the intentional allocation of resources, instruction, and opportunities according to need, requiring that discriminatory practices, prejudices, and beliefs be identified and eradicated.

Just a note to point out that equity demands discrimination – that's how you make things equitable – *according to Critical Race Theory itself*. It is insidious how they claim to want to eradicate discriminatory practices as they single-mindedly promote and push discriminatory practices. Also, this phrase, "Educational equity is the intentional allocation of resources, instruction, and opportunities according to need," sounds an awful lot like Karl Marx ("From each according to his ability, to each according to his need"), doesn't it?

They also apparently believe that [being color-blind is a bad thing](#).

- **NSBA is on the wrong side of a 1st Amendment case.** [They filed an amicus brief](#) on a case involving a student's free speech rights, arguing against the student's constitutional rights. For a review of why NSBA (you know, the group that claims to represent 50 million students) is wrong, read through this short summary from Becket Law, a religious liberty law firm that also [filed an amicus brief](#), but Becket filed on the student's behalf.
- **[Equity Councils](#).** The National School Board Association that purports to represent 50 million students and 14,000 school boards proudly promotes their race-based councils. There is the National Black Council of School Board Members, the National American Indian and Alaska Native Council of School Board Members, the National Hispanic Council of School Board Members, and the National Council of Urban Boards of Education.

UNACCOUNTABLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS (CONT.)

Questions to Ask

Below are questions to ask your school board members. First, ask if any of your school board members are also members of the National School Board Association. If so, continue with the following questions –

- ❓ *How many and which members of your school board are members of NSBA?*
- ❓ *Are they paying dues to NSBA, and if so, how much and do they come from tax dollars?*
- ❓ *Can you see how your school board members vote on NSBA resolutions and other policy-type votes they take? If not, why not? Where is the accountability to the communities they supposedly represent in the association and to the government?*
- ❓ *Why does the NSBA have race-based councils?*
- ❓ *What kinds of influence does the NSBA have on your school board and its policies?*
- ❓ *How can parents, students, and other concerned citizens give input about NSBA positions and policies, as NSBA purports to represent parents, students, and the community?*
- ❓ *What is the exact purpose of NSBA and how does it make your school district better to associate with them? How much and in what ways has the NSBA influenced your school board?*
- ❓ *What is the role and influence of a corporate sponsor of the NSBA? Why does the NSBA have corporate sponsors? Who are the corporate sponsors?*
- ❓ *Why does the NSBA only work with progressive organizations? If they represent 50 million students, shouldn't they work with an equal number of conservative organizations as well?*
- ❓ *Why is a private nonprofit organization speaking on behalf of the citizenry to lawmakers?*

And so on, and so forth. There is a nearly endless stream of questions you could ask your school board about this, but you get the idea. You should also research your state association and ask similar questions about that organization as well.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR STATE BOARDS OF EDUCATION

At the beginning of this toolkit, in “The Basics,” we explained what state boards of education do, and [we linked to this chart](#) to help you figure out how your state board of education is put together.

Make sure to look up the website for your state's board of education to see what they're up to, and how much they align with the national association.

The [National Association of State Boards of Education](#) (NASBE) is the association for state boards, rather than the local school boards.

UNACCOUNTABLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS (CONT.)

We've listed out some of the troubling items we found on their website. Please take a look for yourself as well.

- The slogan of NASBE is, "The only organization dedicated solely to helping state boards advance equity and excellence in public education."
- In their own words –

We integrate equity and excellence into everything we do. As a learning organization, we will periodically refine and reflect upon our definition of equity and how we have integrated it into our work. We define equity, diversity, and inclusion as:

- ➔ An **equitable education** is one in which all students receive what they need to thrive in school. To realize equity in learning environments, policymakers will develop informed policies to eliminate systems, institutional practices, and cultural norms that keep students of varied backgrounds and circumstances from flourishing in school.
- ➔ **Diversity.** Varied backgrounds and circumstances of individuals and groups, which schools, districts, and state leaders embrace to achieve excellence in teaching and learning.
- ➔ **Inclusion.** The creation of education systems in which individuals and groups of diverse backgrounds and circumstances operate in an atmosphere of mutual respect where they are empowered to participate fully.

Again, consult our [Critical Race Theory toolkit](#) to understand what these terms mean. For instance, inclusion does not mean welcoming to all. Under CRT, inclusion means keeping out ideas and speech that might offend identity groups that CRT labels as marginalized and oppressed. This definition of inclusion necessarily results in speech restrictions. Notice above that NASBE implies that some people cannot participate fully unless there are systems in place to protect them – i.e. speech codes.

- The NASBE 2021 Legislative Virtual Conference had a session titled, "[Exploring Equity Frameworks in Policymaking](#)." One of the panelists works for the Virginia Department of Education and had "Equity VA" set as her background. Listen to the session. They are obsessed with race and equity, equity, equity. **Remember, equity is NOT the same as equality.**
- **2018 Strategic Plan.** We highly recommend that you read through (and download) their 2018 strategic plan document.

In the opening letter in the strategic plan document, some of their "partners" are listed. Take a few minutes to research the organizations below. Do they represent you? Why are they working with every single state board of education in the country?

UNACCOUNTABLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS (CONT.)

This plan would not have been possible without the counsel of many respected partners, including the Alliance for Excellent Education, ASCD, the Aspen Institute, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Council of Chief State School Officers, Education Commission of the States, the Education Trust, Institute for Student Achievement, National Council of State Legislatures, National Governors Association, Partners for Each and Every Child, and Seek Common Ground.

One of their strategies for achieving their goals is to, “Raise funds from a diverse array of philanthropic and corporate sources based on NASBE’s organizational priorities and member boards’ needs regionally and nationally.” Our question is, why? What do they need this money for? Where does the money go and how is it used to influence your local schools?

They also say, “NASBE’s premier core values, equity and excellence will be integrated into everything we do.”

For all of their goals listed, they have an “Implications for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” assessment. As an example, their first two strategic goals include the following implications for DEI:

- ➔ Create a staff-driven definition of equity that NASBE integrates into internal and external work (note: applies to all three goals).
- ➔ Reflect the definition of equity in tools such as a member needs assessment and fee-for-service offerings, as well as grant applications and fundraising proposals.
- ➔ Aggressively pursue grant opportunities and fee-for-service activities that advance equity in states.
- ➔ Model diversity, equity, and inclusion values by elevating diverse board members in thought leadership opportunities.
- ➔ All member products, convenings, trainings, and publications include a specific tie-in to equity.
- ➔ Pursue partnerships with state-facing organizations that have an equity focus or equity expertise.

What effect will this “aggressive” pursuit of equity have on your state and your state’s education policy, even if you live in a “red” state? Did you vote for this?

They end the document with this statement, “Above all, we will apply a lens of equity and excellence to everything we do...”

- NASBE uses the same “Whole Child Health” definition as the NSBA, and uses the same context for “school safety” as well.
- **Their 60th anniversary document is very telling as well.** Again, if you have time, scan this

UNACCOUNTABLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS (CONT.)

document. When you do, you will find out interesting tidbits like Hillary Clinton sat on NASBE's task force on early education in 1988. Their report laid out a plan to "incorporate and strengthen early childhood education" in the U.S. More than that, this anniversary document really demonstrates how much influence and power this organization has over federal education policy.

In 2015, NASBE's Executive Director said, "The nation's state boards of education stand ready to redouble their commitment to educational equity."

They all want more money and expect all of us to defer to their "expertise." NASBE brags about their influence in Washington, D.C., and they require dues from state board of education members, which seem to be paid for with tax dollars. It certainly doesn't seem like they are taking direction from the voters in each state. Rather, it seems that they are crafting policies and pushing them down to the state boards of education.

The questions to ask your school board members listed in the school board association section above can be tweaked for your state board of education, and asked of them as well. Of course, feel free to add other questions we haven't included.

OTHER ASSOCIATIONS AND COUNCILS

There is not enough room to go into all of the associations and councils and boards that exist outside of the people's knowledge and control. These are just three more that we came across during our research. Who are they and what are they doing to our kids??

- **National Council of State Boards of Education Executives**
- **The School Superintendents Association**
- **National Association of Secondary School Principals**
- **Council of Chief State School Officers**

Key Takeaway: These associations purport to speak for you – they lobby lawmakers at every level of government in your name. They speak to the media on your supposed behalf. They train and advise local school boards – very possibly your school board – on procedures and policy. They are funded in part by your tax dollars. However, they are intimately tied to a plethora of very left-wing causes, corporations, and organizations. And yet, most people have no idea they exist, and that they have more influence than parents.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PTA & PTO

When we announced we were going to create a toolkit about school boards, we got an email from an activist – let's call her Sharon – with the suggestion that we include information for people to join PTA's and take those over as well.

She was right! Parent Teacher Associations are powerful, and at the state and national level, they have become totally left-wing. In fact, during our research, we found that the national PTA organization is a member of the National Coalition for Public Education we mentioned before – the one whose website is maintained by a hardcore leftist group that opposes religious liberty and supports "The Equality Act." This is just one example of the PTA siding with the left.

Therefore, below is information about PTA's and a plan of action for getting involved. We are indebted to Sharon who wrote this section, based on her own experiences with the PTA. She has been able to influence the more liberal members to oppose bad policies that they would have normally supported, and so, she is making a real difference. Her desire is to show you that you can too.

THE PTA/PTSA AND THE WORTHWHILE EFFORT FOR CHANGE

To be effective, it is best to understand the structure of PTA at the local school level, the country/district/region level, as well as the national level. At the local school level, the PTA-Parent Teacher Association (elementary school) or PTSA-Parent Teacher Student Association (middle/junior high/high school) is an individual 501c3 entity that gets a group affiliation tax exemption status from the State PTA. The State PTA gets its legal "existence" from National PTA. Depending on state PTA Bylaws, your local school PTA may be part of local county or regional district councils.

SO WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT THE PTA'S?

They have the largest child advocacy voice in the country. Technically, the teachers' unions have a larger voice, monetarily, but we all know that the teachers' unions are there for the teachers and what is best for them, and that does not always coincide for what is best for the students.

When the National PTA gives testimony to Congress, it makes an impact. When the State PTA gives testimony to their State Legislature, it is heard. When a local county or regional PTA Council weighs in on local school board decisions, it matters!

Each school board has multiple policies that they have to review and revise each year. If there is a local PTA Council, there is a good chance that the council has a seat at the table for the discussions of what any revisions may look like. The local County Council PTA, if they are organized, may have a legislative team that helps to monitor the legislative activities of decisions that happen within your county. As such, that team would be giving testimony and developing relationships with decision makers.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PTA & PTO (CONT.)

BYLAWS AND WHY THEY MATTER

Because they are all separate and yet interconnected non-profits, the PTA's are governed quite seriously by their Bylaws. Within the Bylaws, it states that a local PTA cannot go against an official position put forward by their Council, State or National PTA. The individuals of the PTA may testify of their disagreement, but the actual PTA may not go against that of the hierarchy. However, if you know the structure, you will know how to affect the decisions of that entity, especially if you are willing to get in and go to work. This is also why it's important to get involved now, and work your way up. If enough of us do it, in a few years, we could control the national PTA and change those policies that all PTA's must follow.

GETTING INVOLVED

Don't get involved just for your political interests- these PTA's need help on multiple levels and if you come in all fired up on Critical Race Theory or this or that, you will make enemies quickly. Every single PTA out there right now has empty positions on their Executive Board or within their Standing Committees. Join after July 1st and find out what is a good fit for you. Do one or two jobs and be there, willing to help the students as well as the adults. You are there to build relationships and through those relationships you will be much more effective. Consider the training offered by the [Center for Self Governance](#) and learn to speak the Language of Liberty so that your intentions can be heard. Speaking in political rhetoric will turn people away and make you ineffective if you want to be involved for any length of time.

THE LONG GAME

Getting invested to make serious changes in a 2-4 year time frame may sound like a horrible idea when you want change NOW and when we see so many things going haywire, but if you want to make changes at the big level from within, this at least is a game plan you can follow.

- **Join your local PTA**
- **If the local PTA has a County Council or Regional Council PTA and they are looking for a Delegate for those meetings, volunteer.** Each of the Council's voting bodies consist of delegates and Presidents from the local PTA's of their areas.
- **Attend those meetings and get involved** - do they have any standing committees that you may be able to help with? Legislative committees are watching the School Board and other Legislative bodies, Membership committees are helping to keep tabs on the local PTA's and what they need, Reflections committee helps to run the local art competition that National PTA has each year, and there might be other committees based on what is going on in your area.
- **This summer, attend your State PTA's convention.** These conventions are generally held in July or August. This is a quick way to get involved and make connections.
- **Next spring, volunteer to be on the Board of your local school's PTA and your County/Regional Council.** In the mix you might be able to join the State Advocacy Committee, if that is one of the areas in which you think you will be able to be a contributing member.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PTA & PTO (CONT.)

- **The more roles at the local and county level you volunteer for, the better you will be able to help.** If you gain the expertise, then you can become qualified for the higher positions within State and maybe even National PTA.
- We will need many voices across the country involved in the State and National PTA Advocacy committees, but that can't be the only place that we show up. **We have to be there in all of the various areas** showing that we care about the students as much as the liberals do, but that we just have different ways to help.
- **Read the Bylaws of all of the various levels before you get involved** - this will give you a framework for how you can help.
- **Watch before you speak, and when you do finally speak, use the [Language of Liberty](#)!** The Center for Self-Governance does a wonderful job explaining how to use the Language of Liberty to effectively get your message across without using words that will push your audience away.

OTHER INFORMATION

Sharon estimates that it would be a three- to four-year process to change the National PTA. While that may seem daunting and annoying to wait that long – this is our country and our children's futures, so it's worth the work and the wait. She also told us that you don't have to have a child in the school – they can be your grandchildren. In fact, some PTA's are run completely by grandparents!

Right now, PTA's are looking for presidents, secretaries, and treasurers, because without those three positions filled, they can't have their own entity. She also noted that if you become a member of the PTA council delegation, it is an easy way for people to get to know you, and you could then run for school board, and have a great head start. The county or regional PTA council may have a legislative committee. If they don't have one yet, and you become a delegate, you could volunteer to create a legislative team for your council – and then you can be one of the advocates.

In your first year, get in as a delegate to the local PTA council or regional council, then the next spring or earlier, get involved on the executive board of that council. Within the next year you could be in a position at the state level, but you need time at each of the local levels – even just a year – so you can be a benefit to the organization, so they don't see you as trying to take over. **And of course, no matter what you're doing, do what's right for the kids.**

Your school website will usually have information about your PTA. Start there if you decide to get involved. If you don't see information about a PTA, call school secretary to ask. In fact, school secretaries and school janitors are a wealth of knowledge! Get to know them.

If there is no PTA, you could start a PTO (parent-teacher-organization). You won't be beholden to a national group, but you would need to go through the legal process to incorporate through the state as a 501(c)3 because you would likely collect money.

MORE INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Some of these links are located in other places within this guide, and some are only listed here. We will continue to add to this list as new links and resources emerge.

Run for school board to replace them

[Run for Office database](#)

[Ballotpedia School Board Elections page](#)

Model legislation at the state level

[The Teaching Racial and Universal Equality \(“TRUE”\) Act](#)

[The Protection of Girls’ Sports Act](#)

[U.S. Department of Education website](#) with contacts for the department of education, the higher education agency, special education agency and adult education agency in your state. (Note: May not be totally up-to-date.)

[Ballotpedia list of school districts by state](#)

[How to sue a school](#)

[Parents Defending Education](#) – fantastic resource

Their three-part strategy is [Empower](#) | [Expose](#) | [Engage](#)

Center for Renewing America – they have a CRT toolkit and [hub page](#) and [a list of words and phrases](#) that are used to sneak CRT into schools and work-places

[Story of parents fighting back](#) in Colorado

[Public Records Request information](#) from Heritage Action



Tea Party Patriots Action's mission is to equip Americans with the resources and training they need to be engaged citizens and effective activists. Our vision is for a nation where individual liberty is cherished and maximized, where the Constitution is revered and upheld, and where Americans are free to pursue their American Dream.



TEA PARTY
PATRIOTS
ACTION

80 M ST ME, FIRST FLOOR, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003

www.teapartypatriots.org