

NEWSFLASH

Michigan PTA's Newsletter For Leaders

April/May 2022

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WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

advocacy noun

 Save Word

ad-vo-ca-cy | \ 'ad-və-kə-sē \

Definition of *advocacy*

: the act or process of supporting a cause or proposal : the act or process of advocating (see **ADVOCATE** entry 2) something

// known for his *advocacy* of gay rights

In the context of PTA, advocacy is supporting and speaking up for children — in schools, in communities, and before government bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children.

PTA speaks for every child with one voice. As the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the nation, we are the conscience of the country for issues affecting children and youth. Each year National and state PTAs publish a public policy platform that outlines policy priorities and recommendations for Congress.

Across the country, our members devote time and resources to advocating on issues that help make every child's potential a reality. Their work affects legislative and/or regulatory policies on a state and/or local level. PTA advocacy efforts include working with multiple organizations or coalitions through grassroots collaboration, raising public awareness on critical issues and developing advocacy training for their membership to create a larger voice from the community to influence positive change.

For advocacy stories from PTAs across the country visit:
pta.org/home/run-your-pta/how-we-pta/advocacy

Did you miss the Michigan PTA 2022 Advocacy Summit on March 19, 2022?

Don't worry, it was recorded and the link is available on the Michigan PTA website (at michiganpta.org/advocacy-summit-2022), along with:

- the four Michigan PTA legislative "Asks" for this year
- a handout packet which includes:
 - Summit agenda
 - Reference materials for the "Asks"
 - Meeting with your State Representative or State Senator flyer
 - VoterVoice flyer (our online advocacy tool)

Michigan PTA 2022 Advocacy Asks

1. **Support Increased School Funding.** Make needed investments in education for continued COVID relief to Michigan Schools to provide a safe environment and maximize education delivery for our children, teachers, and administrators across the state.
2. **Oppose the two Let MI Kids Learn Petitions.** If these petition campaigns are successful, Michigan PTA is asking Michigan legislators not to pass legislation to enact them into law.
3. **Support Seizure Safe Schools Bill HB4970.** Pass Seizure Safe Schools legislation to ensure that schools are well-equipped with the tools necessary to provide a safe and enriching environment for students living with epilepsy and seizure disorders.
4. **Support Increased School Safety.** Continue their commitment to Safe and Supportive Schools through legislation and funding, working on both prevention and treatment for all students.

Now is the time to meet with your state legislators about these "Asks" (and any other issues arising from your own school communities). Remember to include student members in these meetings wherever possible, and let them handle some of the communication.

Once you have had your conversations with your State Representative and/or State Senator, please send a quick report to childadvocacyvp@michiganpta.org about whom you met with and how it went.

After the legislative meetings are complete, we will hold a follow-up event – the **2022 Michigan PTA Advocacy Round-Up**, on **Wednesday, April 13th at 6:30 p.m.** This will be our opportunity to debrief the meetings that have been held around the state, give an update on the progress of specific legislation, and discuss any urgent action items that have been identified. We will also share how you can become involved in advocacy at the state level. Volunteers are always welcome!

Advocacy is a vital part of Michigan PTA, and all local PTAs are encouraged to make advocacy education and discussions part of their PTA meetings. If you need updates, trainings, and/or resources regarding involvement in PTA advocacy to present to your members, contact Michigan PTA Advocacy via email at childadvocacyvp@michiganpta.org

Thank you for all you do for PTA!

Jenn Garland
Michigan PTA Vice President of Children's Advocacy
 Jenn's Mobile: 248-470-2849
 Michigan PTA Office: 734-975-9500
www.michiganpta.org

PTA's mission is to make every Child's Potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Upcoming Michigan PTA Legislative Events



- Advocacy Summit - Saturday, March 19, 2022
- Meetings With Legislators - March 25, 2022 - April 11, 2022
- Michigan PTA Advocacy Round-up - April 13, 2022

*All events will be held virtually

**For more information visit:
michiganpta.org/advocacy-events**

Michigan PTA Advocacy Day Events

Given the current Covid-19 situation, we have converted our upcoming Michigan PTA Advocacy Day to a series of smaller virtual events, as follows:

Saturday, March 19, 2022 (10 a.m. - 12 p.m.): Advocacy Summit will include key Michigan stakeholders as speakers, present the Michigan PTA legislative "asks" for 2022, and provide legislative background and training. Registration is open for this event: zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MmbTQnvRQqKVqO_Gz7DWbg

March 25, 2022 - April 11, 2022: The Summit is followed by a two-week window for members to meet with their legislators about the "asks." Legislators will be available in their home districts during this time that the Legislature is not in session.

April 13, 2022 (evening, TBD): Advocacy Round-Up will include a debrief of legislative meetings, share action items, and invite participation in advocacy at the state level

Please watch for more details, registration information, and the policy "asks" to be issued in the coming weeks, and share them with your membership when they come out. Thank you.

Federal Legislative Report

National Convention Celebrating 125 Years!

National PTA Convention Registration is NOW Open! Join us in Washington D.C. June 13-19, 2022 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, National Harbor, MD. This year the Legislative Conference will be part of Convention, with Hill Day happening on June 14th. You can find all the details, including how to register at <https://www.pta.org/home/events/National-PTA-Convention-Expo>. Please email Carin Meyer at fedlegchair@michiganpta.org to let us know if you will be joining on Hill Day! Early Bird registration ends March 31st with general registration ending May 31st.

Update on National PTA and Michigan PTA Federal Outreach

February 21-25, 2022 was Public Schools Week! We reached out to our federal officials asking them to join us in celebration of our school districts that educate 91% of K-12 children.

Working with the Newtown Action Alliance, Michigan PTA has been continuing to reach out to our federal House representatives to get sponsors for Ethan's Law, HR 748, a federal law requiring safe storage to keep minors from having unattended access to firearms. As of this writing, the Bill has 208 sponsors! Remember that once this bill reaches 218, a vote must occur in the House. In Michigan, we have not been able to increase the number of sponsors beyond the original seven yet, but we have been successful in setting up meetings with offices to discuss this important piece of child safety legislation.

Senator Stabenow's office has informed us that she is working to make sure that the USDA nutrition waivers, which allow for no-cost school meals, continue for the 2022/23 school year. Senator Stabenow is the Chair of the Agricultural Committee, and we appreciate her commitment to make sure all children have access to meals during the school day. In 2019 the National School Lunch debt was \$262 million nationwide, with 75% of school districts reporting families with outstanding payments. Continuing this program alleviates stress on families and allows for school districts to have more money to go toward other expenses. Please contact Senators Stabenow and Peters, and your federal House representatives to let them know how important these waivers are to our Michigan families.

National PTA had a call to action asking that the US House of Representatives support the STANDUP Act which focuses on suicide prevention training. This bill has already passed in the Senate. It is a continuation of National PTA's focus on student mental health in resources, knowledge, and funding. For more information and to contact your legislator, please go to <https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/take-action>.

Carin Meyer
Federal Legislative Chair, Michigan PTA



ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION

JUNE 14-19, 2022 | NATIONAL HARBOR, MD

MICHIGAN PTA ANNUAL CONVENTION

JULY 22-23, 2022



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

[MICHIGANPTA.MEMBERHUB.GIVES/CONV2022](https://michiganpta.memberhub.gives/conv2022)

The Michigan PTA board is excited to announce that the date and location for the convention have been finalized. We will be at the [Best Western Premier Detroit Southfield Hotel](#) on Friday, July 22, and Saturday, July 23. No member will pay more than \$100 for registration, which includes 2 days of sessions and all meals. There will be something for everyone from youth members (middle school and up) to unit leaders to parents and guardians, and even council leaders. Get a group together to save on registration and get the most information possible.

On Friday the door opens at 8 AM and we expect the sessions to wrap up by 8:30 pm. The day will include 4 workshop sessions (including officer training), a vendor fair, and one-on-one mentoring sessions. But to get the most out of networking, book a hotel room and stay for the after-party! It's a great time to let loose and connect with other PTA members around the state. On Saturday, breakfast starts at 9 AM, with 4 more relevant workshop sessions and panel discussions, and the closing dinner and guest speaker should be done before 7 PM. If you have ideas for what you'd like to learn or see, share them with the planning committee: Convention Ideas Form: forms.gle/ZqSXHJXHhneGtbY6

To get the best prices register now: michiganpta.memberhub.gives/conv2022. Hotel rooms starting at \$109 are not included, but you can book a room on the group page or by contacting the hotel directly and using the group code MPTA.

MI PTA Programs & Services Update

Congratulations!

**2021-2022
Michigan Reflections
Winners Announced!**



Reflections – Congratulations to this year's State Reflections winners!

Best wishes to the 27 students who received Outstanding Interpretation awards as they represent the state of Michigan in the National level Reflections contest! National results will be available early May.

MI PTA is planning to host a special, in-person Reflections Celebration in conjunction with State Convention, July 22 – 23, 2022 in Southfield. Stay tuned for additional details.

And while you celebrate your 2021-22 participating students' creativity, you can also promote the 2022-23 theme, "Show Your Voice!"

View winners online: michiganpta.org/reflections

**Michigan
PTA Awards
and
Recognition**



Local PTA/PTSA Units and Councils!

The Michigan PTA Awards and Recognition Program is open.

For details visit
michiganpta.org/state-pta-awards



Awards – Michigan PTA offers a wide variety of awards to recognize the remarkable work of volunteers. Awards are intended to honor exemplary leadership and service for children. Winning project ideas may be used as examples for other PTA/PTSAs. Award nominees must be part of a unit or council in good standing with Michigan PTA.

You can find the awards available once you've logged in at michiganpta.org. Hover over the "More" tab on the far right, scroll down to the section for PTA Leaders, and select the State Level Awards.

The website will be updated with the 2021-22 applications no later than March 31. Completed applications will be due electronically by 11:59pm ET on May 1, 2022.

A Message From the President

The first quarter of each new year is always full of celebration with Founders Day events and award celebrations. This year we have added a celebration marking a quasiquicentennial celebration. 125 Years of advocating for Children!

Continuing a timeline that extends as long as 125 years, PTA stays relevant by always staying focused on the mission:

To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

How do we keep the flame of the mission always burning? That is typically found in our innovation of how we deliver the mission. There are endless ways to engage families, empower children, and for all of us to play a role in advocacy.

It may seem very daunting for some of you to increase the flame right now. You may have just started to come out of two years of barriers and roadblocks where you have had to turn around and try again when events were delayed or canceled. It was exhausting.

Where do you start now?

Softly blow on the flame to give it oxygen. Consider the successful activities and events that occurred prior to 2019. What were those committees and events that always had your students and community talking? Which ones work best with your current team and volunteers? Don't create the expectation that everything must restart the way it always had been done before. Remember, if you blow on the flame too hard, you might extinguish it.

Share the flame by igniting someone else's. Now is a great time to consider events and opportunities your PTA community hasn't done before. Listen to new ideas from your volunteers, hand them their own torch to see the mission forward.

And finally build that community bonfire and brag! Share your activities, using the media that works best for YOUR community. I know I love to hear about what your teacher grants provide to your students. I enjoy hearing about fun runs, fundraisers, all the "nights" like Science, Math, Reading, Career, and more. Sharing your mission will make everyone's flame brighter for PTA.

Thank you for protecting the flame that burns for our mission. I appreciate the light that each of you brings.

All the best,
Tracey Troy



Whom do I contact for...

Advocacy, questions on legislative bills and contacting your representative or senator? Jenn Garland, Vice President of Child Advocacy
childadvocacyvp@michiganpta.org

Appreciation Awards Jenna McMechan, Secretary
secretary@michiganpta.org

Bylaws questions Jenna McMechan, Secretary
secretary@michiganpta.org

Election questions Kathy Carter, Past President
carterk@michiganpta.org

Facebook posts, newsletter, and other communications Beth Hulett, Vice President of Communications

MemberHub Tanya Pitkin, Board of Directors
pitkint@michiganpta.org

Problems communicating with Principals Kathy Carter, Past President
carterk@michiganpta.org

Scholarship questions Barb Blanchard, Chair of the Scholarship Committee

Starting a new PTA Lisa Roscoe, Vice President of Outreach & Support
OutreachSupportvp@michiganpta.org

Tax exempt letter Jenna McMechan, Secretary
secretary@michiganpta.org

We are all **100% volunteers** at MIPTA and try to respond to all inquiries in a timely manner. Most of our volunteers work during the day and have limited access to their email. **This includes our phones as well.** You will need to leave a detailed message and will do our best to return your call or email you the requested information.

Contact information:

Michigan PTA
PO Box 510535
Livonia, MI 48151
Phone # (734)975-9500
michiganpta.org
facebook.com/everychildonevoice

Partnering With Principals

Hello everyone,

Here's just something quick from Leadership Development:

Need some advice on your partnership with Principals? We have a 10 minute video with an available handout that can be of great value!!

- Go to the PTA.org homepage
- Click on Run your PTA
- Scroll down and find "Membership Resources"
- Click on "Micro Learning Videos"
- And look for "Talking to the Principals About the Value of PTA"

Show it to your Board and to your Principal. It takes just ten minutes to watch. You can print out the entire video; it is 28 pages long. It will be time well spent to understand the roles of both PTA and Principals. You will also find a two-page handout you can print: "The Dos and Don'ts of Partnering with Administrators."

PTA works in education so keep learning how to improve!!

Kathy Carter

Interested in being a part of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee?

For more information contact
garlandj@michiganpta.org

Michigan PTA DEI Committee Meetings

Feb 17, 2022 06:30 PM

Mar 17, 2022 06:30 PM

Apr 21, 2022 06:30 PM

May 19, 2022 06:30 PM

Jun 16, 2022 06:30 PM

Strategic Plan

The MI PTA Board of Directors are committed to developing a 3-year strategic plan for the organization. This plan, which will span July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025, will ultimately:

- Provide focus and prioritization for MI PTA leadership
- Update the MI PTA business and operating model to ultimately drive membership and non-dues
- Align with the National PTA strategic priorities
 - Growth with mission and membership
 - Leadership development
 - Organizational effectiveness

We intend to share the completed plan with membership at Convention in July. It will be a very busy couple of months, but we are up for the challenge!

We are hoping to gather input from our key stakeholders – you! We'd like to hear from general members, unit-level leaders, and council-level leaders. Please look for a link to a short survey or sign up to participate in a focus group – details will be coming via MemberHub email.

Joy Supports Emotional Health

Joy is a nourishing core emotion, and it contributes to the maintenance of positive emotional health. Students and parents can develop a growing positive relationship with the emotion of joy. We often devote time to nourish our physical body by exercising. It is worth the endeavor to nourish and build our capacity for joy. National PTA supports the emotional well-being of children and parents. Let's build our joy!

Practice looking for the small everyday moments of joy.

Here are some techniques for building additional joy with those little everyday moments:

1. Petting your dog or cat
2. Listening to your favorite song
3. Noticing a bird or flower
4. Laughing during a funny moment from a television show or book
5. If you look for other small daily moments of joy, you will find them.

When you discover those miniature moments of joy, acknowledge and embrace them.

Lachelle Thomas
VP of Student Involvement

A.L.L. Advocate Leaders at Large

Thank you for being a member of A.L.L. PTA!

Mark your calendars! Convention has been set for July 22&23 in Southfield. Watch for more details coming soon...

Questions: call us at 734-975-9500, or contact me at ALL@michiganpta.org. We would love to hear from you.

Kathy Carter

Michigan PTA's Advocate Leaders at Large (A.L.L.) is a state level PTA membership that is designed for people who want to support the general mission of PTA at a broader level than one particular school PTA. As an A.L.L. PTA member, you support the Michigan PTA and all PTA/PTSA's in Michigan.

A.L.L. PTA members:

- Receive regular communication and Advocacy Alerts from Michigan PTA
- Are entitled to attend Michigan and National PTA events at the member rate
- Are part of an outreach community for improving education for children in Michigan

For more information visit michiganpta.org/membership



Important Dates to Remember

Unit and Council Renewal and Officer Updates in MemberHub	Begins June 1, 2022, must be complete by Oct. 1, 2021
Submit Board of Directors Speaking/Visit Requests for Fall 2021 and Founders' Day Schedule	September 15, 2021
990 Filing Date with the IRS (for most units/councils)	November 15, 2021
Standards of Affiliation (SOA) Deadline* (dues, audit, budget, copy of 990, officers bylaws, insurance)	December 1, 2021
Submitting Board of Directors Speaking/Visit Request for Spring/Summer 2022	January 15, 2022
Submitting Resolutions for Consideration at Convention	May 15, 2022
Fran Anderson Scholarship Deadline	April 1, 2022
Michigan PTA Awards Deadline	May 1, 2022

Satisfying Standard of Affiliation allows Units/Councils to participate in all State and National Awards, Grants and Programs.

Please note that when a Unit/Council applies for a National PTA award/grant/program, Michigan PTA is contacted before the award/grant/program is dispersed and if the Unit/Council has not satisfied the Standards of Affiliation (SOA), that entity will be disqualified for the award/grant/program, per Michigan PTA's affiliation agreement with National PTA.

**Mailing Address
Michigan PTA
P.O. Box 510535
Livonia, Michigan 48151**

**734.975.9500
michiganpta.org**

Helpful Information

National PTA is pleased to announce an expansion of its PTA Connected initiative through a new alliance with Discord, an online voice, video and text communication service on a mission to create a space for everyone to find belonging. Discord will collaborate with National PTA on digital safety resources and events designed to elevate youth voices and foster shared understanding among teens, caregivers and educators.

discord.com/invite/nationalpta

Connect With Michigan PTA!

Website: michiganpta.org

Facebook Page: facebook.com/everychildonevoice/

Facebook groups by interest:

- Michigan PTA Advocacy
- Michigan PTA Reflections Network
- Michigan PTA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Michigan PTA Membership
- Michigan PTA Leadership Community

We're Here to Help

Volunteers are available to help answer questions. How you can reach us:

734-975-9500

P.O. Box 510535
Livonia, MI 48151

President- Tracey Troy
president@michiganpta.org

President-Elect
Vacant

Secretary- Jenna McMechan
secretary@michiganpta.org

Treasurer- Meredith Blixt
treasurer@michiganpta.org

VP of Outreach & Support- Lisa Roscoe
outreachsupportvp@michiganpta.org

VP of Student Involvement- Lachelle Thomas
studentinvolvementvp@michiganpta.org

VP of Membership- Vacant
membershipvp@michiganpta.org

VP of Advocacy- Jenn Garland
childadvocacyvp@michiganpta.org

VP of Communications- Beth Hulett
CommunicationsVP@MichiganPTA.org