



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

November 2017 Bulletin of the Kentucky PTA

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A Message from Kentucky PTA President

Traditionally, November is the month when we express thanks for all of the blessings in our lives. We gather with family and friends, eat too much, watch football games, and prepare for the next holiday. Far too many of the children in Kentucky will not be able to do these things this Thanksgiving.



Cherie Dimar

I urge your PTA to think outside your school to your larger community. PTAs can partner with other like organizations to make a difference in the lives of our children.

We appreciate your willingness to serve in a leadership position on your school's PTA board. Thank you for the countless hours you volunteer and the sacrifices you make on behalf of the children and the families in your school and community. May you be blessed during this season!

Counselors Play a Vital Role in Preparing Children for Life

The role of the school counselor has changed pretty dramatically since most of us were in school. Your school counselor might have helped you with your college applications, given advice on recommendation letters or helped fill out class schedules. These days, their role has become much broader and more critical in addressing student needs.



Stephen Pruitt

File 990.org

PTA/PTSA Presidents, Kentucky PTA is offering a new free member benefit for local units. We have partnered with File990.org to conduct this free service for all units to efile their IRS 990 tax forms. As you know, non-profits including PTAs must file a 990 tax form with the IRS each year by November 15. This free service will remind you to file and link you directly to File990.org's secure IRS approved filing site.

Important Dates

November 15, 2017
Form 990 Filing Due to IRS

November 20, 2017
Kentucky PTA Unity Day

January 18, 2018
Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol

February 11-18, 2018
Take Your Family to School Week

March 13-15, 2018
National PTA Legislative Conference

April 27, 2018
Happy 100th birthday, Kentucky PTA!

May 6-12, 2018
Teacher Appreciation Week

May 12, 2018
Kentucky PTA Student Recognition Ceremony

June 21 - 24, 2018
National PTA Convention, New Orleans, LA



Federal funding for public education programs has remained at 2% of the federal budget for decades, despite the increase in public school enrollment and the rising cost of education resources and services. This disparity between funding levels and actual costs means that the federal government has essentially enacted cuts to classrooms.

The federal government's deadline to fund the government for the next year is December 8,

State regulations require school counselors to have a master's degree, which includes many hours in childhood development courses. These professionals are experts in offering and coordinating supports to meet the needs of the whole child, embracing everything from advising students about future careers to providing counseling for youth about issues such as bullying and mental health. [\[read more\]](#)

Great Advocates on the Horizon



Friday, November 3, 2017, we held our annual KY PTA Grassroots Advocacy Training at our state office in Frankfort. The six ladies that came were excited and ready to learn about what PTA is really all about; true advocates for all children. We were able to teach them about the legislature, how to find a bill, who is your legislator, and how to build an advocacy campaign at your school, district, and community.

One of the highlights of the training was to go to the Capitol to get the full flavor of the Kentucky General Assembly. They got to see the House and Senate chambers, the Governor's office, the legislators' offices and the committee meeting rooms. Probably the one thing they liked the best was the bill room and all the free literature about government. They brought out tons of information to take home to read.

As the end of the day, we graduated them to "Grassroots Advocates" for the Kentucky PTA. We can't wait to work with our new advocates as we move into our Legislative session in January.

Celebrating Diversity on Unity Day

By Kennisha Fisher
wmsptapresident@gmail.com

As the bustle of the holiday season begins, we start to reflect on coming together as family and friends. The PTA

2017. If you would like the United States to have a strong economy powered by a well-educated workforce that can compete on the global stage, then stand with four million parents, teachers, students and community leaders as we demand that Congress [#STOPCutsToClassrooms](#) and invest more than two percent in public education before the next fiscal year (2018).

2017-18 Reflections Program



All Reflections entries must be turned in to the Kentucky PTA office by December 15, 2017. For more information, contact Rhonda Willinger at 502.386.6697 or reflectionskypta@gmail.com.

Take Your Family to School

\$55,000 in funding will be awarded to PTAs across the country to promote family engagement in education during **Take Your Family to School Week**, February 11-17, 2018. Through an application process, 55 local PTAs will be selected to receive grants of \$1,000 each. To learn more, [click here!](#)



KY PTA Executive Board

President
[Cherie Dimar](#)

gives us an opportunity to do the same in our schools with Unity Day.

Celebrated across the nation on the Monday before Thanksgiving, Unity Day is a great way for us to focus on the beauty of diversity in our schools.

I am the new Commissioner of Diversity and Inclusion on the Kentucky PTA board. While schools often feel comfortable about being united within their visions, my goal is to encourage them to look closely at their team and make sure that diversity plays a key role as well. [\[read more\]](#)

Honorary Life Recognition

Did you know your PTA/PTSA may present a Kentucky PTA Honorary "Life" Recognition to a worthy person in the school, community or state?

Every PTA/PTSA has many deserving members among its volunteers, teachers and staff. The honoree need not be a member of a PTA/PTSA nor a person well known beyond their own area of service. Example: PTA/PTSA member, past or present; teacher; principal; cafeteria worker; mayor; police officer; school board member; legislator.

There is no better way to honor these special people who contribute so much to our children and youth than in presenting them with Kentucky PTA Honorary "Life" Recognition. Cost is \$25, which helps fund our Kentucky PTA Scholarship Fund. Plus an Honorary "Life" Recognition pin (\$20) that you can present to the person you are honoring.

Applications are in your Leaders' Notebook or online at [kypta.org](#). Two weeks notice, or more, is needed before your event. Note: "Life" Recognitions are honorary. Recipients must join the PTA/PTSA each year to be a voting member.

Kentucky PTA Statement on Governor's Pension Bill

Kentucky PTA supports a well-funded public education system and believes in providing the best learning opportunities for each and every child in our state. A great education depends on attracting and retaining effective educators, and retirement benefits are an essential benefit. The Governor's proposed pension framework could damage public education on which families depend by making the teaching profession less attractive and secure. Rather, we need to encourage more young people to enter the teaching profession to guarantee a high-quality education for our children.

Professional staff is the most important resource for student achievement. Increasing the share of retirement costs for teachers will unavoidably reduce student opportunities. Additional student resource inequities could result among

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classrooms across the state. Students will suffer from increased class size and cuts to highly valued programs such as full-day kindergarten, tutoring, arts, advanced placement (AP), dual credit and credentialing courses.

Kentucky PTA is non-partisan and does not endorse a candidate but it does support policies that further our mission of helping every child reach their potential.

Kentucky Education Action Team Statement

The governor's pension bill (17 SS BR10) finally became public on Friday. As we expected, the provisions of that bill are very concerning to us, and several provisions are worse than advertised.



The Kentucky Education Action Team (KEAT) partners listed below, who collectively represent more than 130,000 public education employees and retirees, stand shoulder-to-shoulder with one another and with all the public employees and retirees who will be permanently adversely affected by BR 10, should it become law. We have always believed, and continue to believe, that public employees serve for the benefit of all citizens of the Commonwealth. We, too, are taxpayers. We, too, have children in the public schools. We, too, benefit from public services.

The preamble to the bill states that it is intended to create a "more attractive business climate" in Kentucky. However, for years we've been told by previous governors, successive legislatures and the current administration that high quality public education is what matters most to businesses looking to locate or expand operations in Kentucky. Nothing in this bill will make the Commonwealth a more attractive place to do business, unless you're already wealthy and do not need a secure retirement income, health care or quality public education for your children. [[read more](#)]

Thank You, PTA Shop!



Our PTSA was looking for ways to brand ourselves. Our first stop was the [PTA Shop](#). They consistently deliver amazing products to help brand who we are and remind our families when the PTSA is involved. We purchased the PTSA tablecloth and had our name placed on it. We can now direct all members to check in at our table or "to see someone at the PTSA table." Excellent work [PTA Shop](#)!

Callie Slone, 2017-2018 President
Western Middle School for the Arts PTSA

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