



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

January 2018 Bulletin of the Kentucky PTA

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A Message from Kentucky PTA President

The 2000 men and women who met in Washington D.C. on February 17, 1897 (to found what is now the National PTA) shared two concerns: the conditions under which children were living and the future on the nation. These two basic beliefs - that children are the future and that everyone needs to care about children - have guided PTA programs, projects and advocacy efforts for the last 120 years. We are united by a common concern, which is to improve the lives of all children within and beyond our own communities. Take time to celebrate what our founders did and what your PTA has done to help better the lives of children and youth. [\[read more\]](#)



Cherie Dimar

Save the Date!

It's the annual **Kentucky PTA Convention**

July 20-21, 2018
Seneca High School
Louisville, KY

This is an excellent opportunity for leadership training, networking with fellow PTA/PTSA leaders from across Kentucky, accepting awards on your association's behalf, and making connections with numerous vendors. Current and incoming board members, administrators, teachers, and students

5 Wellness Resolutions

Did you know that nearly 80% of New Year's resolutions are forgotten come February? Right now, in my own family, we are reflecting on the goals we set in 2017 and thinking about where we'd like to see ourselves in 2018.

[Click here](#) to read five healthy living resolutions for your family to try in the new year.



Jim Accomando

are invited to attend. Leadership training is legitimate PTA expenses so include this in your budget.

Don't miss the special celebration as Kentucky PTA celebrates its 100th anniversary! More information coming soon.

Rally for Education

The Kentucky PTA is holding a Rally for Education and the community is invited to join us, Tuesday, February 13, 7:00 pm, at Westport Middle School, 8100 Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40222.

Take your Family to School Week



National PTA's Take Your Family to School Week is February 11-17 this year, and your PTA can be instrumental in encouraging the connection between school and families. Visit the [National PTA website](#) for ideas on events about Health and Safety, Literacy and Digital Learning, plus a detailed tool kit to use in planning your event.

If you come up with your own great idea, be sure to share with PTA so it can be shared with others.

Help create excitement about school by ensuring all family members feel a part of the learning community. These events are also great ways to grow your volunteer base!



National PTA and Microsoft have partnered to offer the 2018 National PTA STEM + Families Tech Grants to support events to bring families and students together to learn exciting tech skills focused on coding and

Pushing Forward

January is a time of new beginnings and taking stock. That's why I want to use my column this month to share my thoughts on where we stand in K-12 education in Kentucky.



Stephen Pruitt

During the past year, we have set the stage for real improvement in public education and decreasing the achievement gap by half by 2030. In tandem with Senate Bill 1 (2017) and the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, we have restructured our accountability system to push schools to move beyond testing as the primary measure of their success. The new system also encourages schools and districts to focus on opportunity and access for all children, as well as meeting the needs of the whole child. [\[read more\]](#)



Help us fill the rotunda and ask elected officials to prioritize kids in the 2018 session.

Register yourself or your group to attend the 2018 Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol. If you are bringing a group of youth, please contact Tina Agonva at tagonva@kyyouth.org to take a brief survey about youth activities we can help you coordinate throughout the day.

To learn more, visit kyyouth.org.

Kentucky PTA Position on Proposed Pension Plan

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. Proposed pension frameworks could damage public education on which families depend by

robotics. The project will award \$1,000 to 35 local middle school PTAs to host events.

The PTA will provide all training and support necessary to host a successful program. Deadline to apply is February 9, 2018. Information is available at [this link](#). Apply today!

Important Dates

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

July 20 - 21, 2018

Kentucky PTA Convention, Louisville, KY

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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 one of the most important resources for student achievement. Increasing the share of retirement costs for teachers will unavoidably reduce student opportunities. Additional student resource inequities could result among 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 PTA Legislative Priorities

Following is a list of legislative priorities for the Kentucky PTA in 2018:



1. Support teacher retirement pension funding.
2. Support funding for public education.

This includes

- maintaining or increasing funding for adequate K-12 public school education;
 - fully funding transportation;
 - fully funding all day Kindergarten;
 - increasing funding for early childhood programs; and
 - fully funding Family/Youth Resource Service Centers.
3. Oppose any reduction in authority and/or dismantling of school-based decision-making councils.

Awards & Scholarships

Each year, Kentucky PTA presents several awards and scholarships.

[Kentucky PTA Scholarships](#)

1. High School seniors who plan to attend a Kentucky accredited university and pursue a degree in education.

Virgil Berrong

Treasurer

Liz Hill

Legislative Commissioner

Sharon Whitworth



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[12th District PTA](#)

[13th District PTA](#)

[14th District PTA](#)

[15th District PTA](#)

[16th District PTA](#)

2. A parent PTA member who is continuing his or her studies in a health field and will attend an accredited Kentucky college or university.

3. Teacher PTA members who are working toward a master's degree or Rank 1. Funding for the yearly scholarships comes from the fees from the Honorary Life Membership and other donations.

Rising Star Award

Kentucky PTA's "Christa McAuliffe" Rising Star Award recognizes students who have successfully worked through obstacles to improve performance in school, character and self esteem.

Grades P-1, Elementary 2-4, Elementary/Middle 5-8, High School 9-12, and Special Needs will be recognized.

Self Esteem Award - Elementary and Middle/High

The purpose of the Self Esteem Award is to allow students to express what makes them feel special.

Kentucky PTA Scholarship and Rising Star and Self Esteem winners are recognized at the Student Recognition in Frankfort, KY in the spring.

Applications for all of these scholarships and awards are due to the Kentucky PTA Office, 148 Consumer Lane, Frankfort, KY, by February 15, 2018. See your leaders packet or kypta.org for the application. *Participating PTAs must be in good standing as of October 15, 2017.*

Kentucky PTA, 148 Consumer Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601

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