

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

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PTA Websites

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2015 Kentucky PTA Convention

Mark your calendar for the 2015 Kentucky State PTA Convention from Thursday July 9 to Saturday July 11. It's an excellent opportunity for leadership training, networking with fellow

Leadership Messages

Kentucky PTA President Message

Hello PTA Friends and Family!

In this new era of education reform and parent/family engagement, your voice is more important than ever. Parents and family members are partners and advocates in their child's education. Learning does not end in the classroom. Children need help and support at home in order to succeed. National PTA's Parent Guides to Student Success provide specific ways that parents can help children master important skills.



It is our job as PTA leaders to make every parent feel welcomed. PTAs should work cooperatively with school administrators to find ways to develop Family/School Partnerships. For partnerships to work there must be mutual trust and respect, an ongoing exchange of information, and a welcoming school climate. I challenge each of you to make an extra effort to reach out to your parents. You may find your next fall festival chairperson, walk-a-thon chairperson, or board member.

We are thankful for all PTA leaders across the state and for your dedication to our students. Never under estimate the important role that you play in helping all children reach their potential. On behalf of the Kentucky PTA Board I wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season!

Edward Squires

National PTA President Message Otha Thornton

Unlike any other form of communication and self-expression, the arts allows children to use their creativity to share their thoughts, ideas and convey feelings and emotions in their own personal way. It's a universal language that is not only recreational, but educational as well. National PTA recognized the importance of the arts long ago as an essential part of the academic realm. Our well-known



PTA/PTSA leaders from across Kentucky, accepting awards on your association's behalf, and making connections with numerous vendors!

Reflections program has inspired millions of students in grades pre-K through 12 to reflect on a specific theme and create original artwork in dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts. The oldest and largest student recognition arts program in the nation, it was developed in 1969 by Mary Lou Anderson, to encourage students to explore their talents in an educational way. [Read more...](#)

Kentucky Commissioner of Education Message Terry Holliday

The Kentucky Department of Education has released the third year of results under the Unbridled Learning College/Career-Readiness for All accountability model, and while we still have much work to do, the data show we are moving in the right direction and that there is much reason to celebrate. The eyes of the nation have been focused on Kentucky since we became the first state to adopt new English/language arts and mathematics standards, as mandated by Senate Bill 1 (2009). While we saw a big drop in student performance at first, as expected due to the increased rigor of the standards, we are starting to see some significant progress, as predicted, in student performance evidenced by results on the Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP). Kentucky students are proving to the rest of the nation that the standards are working and helping to better prepare them for college and careers. [Read more...](#)



Kentucky Core Academic Standards (KCAS) Challenge!

The Kentucky Department of Education is seeking specific input on the English/language arts and mathematics standards adopted in 2010. While stakeholders had an opportunity to provide feedback during the development and adoption process, this will give P-12 teachers, higher education, parents, students and others who are interested the chance to perfect the standards based on their experience over the past 4-5 years. This is NOT a referendum on the standards. ONLY comments tied to a specific standard will be considered. The challenge will remain open until April 30, 2015 to give those who are interested ample opportunity to provide thoughtful response. Once the challenge ends, the feedback provided will be posted online. Comments provided about specific standards will be evaluated by a team of Kentucky educators, from all levels specializing in the specific content areas. The team will then make recommendations on any changes to the Kentucky Board of Education for its consideration, most likely in fall of 2015. If you are not familiar with the standards, we have provided documents for English / Language Arts and Math explaining how the standards in each subject are organized to help you get started. Take the challenge now, [click here](#) to get started.

Leadership Information and Resources

Upcoming Events

- 2/2-2/10 - National Take Your Family to School Week
- 2/5 - Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol
- 2/10 - Grassroots Advocacy Training
- 2/15 - Self-esteem Award Applications Due
- 3/15 - Awards Deadline
- 6/26-28 - National PTA Convention in Charlotte, NC
- 7/9- 7/11 - Kentucky PTA Convention

Leaders Notebook

The Kentucky PTA Leader's Notebook is available on the [KY PTA website](#). Click on the tab at the top "For Members" and then find the Leader's Notebook for 2014-15. Contents include:

- All forms you will need throughout the year from membership reporting to awards and recognitions and scholarships - check them all out
- A section on Basics which includes bylaws forms if your need to renew those soon
- Financial Matters - everything regarding finance all your board members should be aware of

- Great ideas in the membership and program section
- And of course advocacy and legislation

E-Learning Library

There are now 14 E-learning courses available on the National PTA's website, including Board Basics and sessions for President, Secretary and Treasurer roles. Check out the full course offering online by [clicking here](#).

Executive Committee

- President - Eddie Squires at kypta.president@gmail.com
- President Elect - Cherie Dimar at kypta.preselect@gmail.com
- VP Leadership and Outreach - Mark Hartman at markohartman@frontier.com
- VP Organization Services - Kelly Capps at kelly.capps@uky.edu
- VP Programs - Leeann Myers at Leamyers1@aol.com
- Secretary - Liza Holland at liza@lizaholland.com
- Treasurer - Brian Wampler at bwampler68@gmail.com
- Legislative Commissioner - Sharon Whitworth at sharon.whitworth@jefferson.kyschools.us

Nominating Committee and Board Interest

What is the Nominating Committee

The Kentucky PTA Nominating Committee is an appointed committee of five members who are charged with screening and evaluating individuals and candidates for such Kentucky PTA leadership positions as president-elect, secretary, treasurer, Vice President Organization Services, Vice President Leadership Outreach, Vice President Programs and various commissioner positions.

Where Does The Nominating Committee Get Suggestions for Candidates?

The Nominating Committee is open to receiving applications from interested candidates and also welcomes recommendations from PTA's membership.

I'm Interested, What Should I Do Next?

[Download](#) the Interest Form and mail it to the Kentucky PTA Nominating Committee. You can also send the form via email to KentuckyPTA.Nominating@gmail.com.

Elected/Executive Board Positions:

- **President Elect** - Upon absence or vacancy of the President, the President-Elect is the first in order of precedence. The President-Elect shall direct the activities of the Communications/Marketing Team, oversees all publications, and is a member of the Executive Committee.
- **Treasurer** - Chairs the budget/finance committee and credentials committee and is a member of the headquarters support committee and is a member of the Executive Committee.
- **Secretary** - The Secretary is responsible for the official written record of actions of the Kentucky PTA and is a member of the Executive Committee.
- **Vice President Leadership/Outreach Services** - The Vice President for Leadership Outreach Services is responsible for outreach services, District Presidents Group, and is a member of the Executive Committee.
- **Vice President for Organizational Services** - The Vice President for Organizational Services is responsible for the bylaws, standing rules, job descriptions, and board member hand books and is a member of the Executive Committee.
- **Vice President for Programs** - The Vice President for Programs is responsible for health/welfare programs, educational programs, and other state, national and special programs and is a member of the Executive Committee.
- **Commissioners** serve under specific vice presidents. Commissions are composed of a vice president and elected and/or appointed commissioners as specified in the standing rules. Commissioners attend all Board of Director Meetings.

PTA Spotlight

AB Chandler PTA, Corydon, KY

The first ever Cheetah Craft Fair and Burgoo cook-off was a great success! The team was determined to host two simultaneous fundraisers regardless of the challenges. The night before the event most every staff member and the PTA board showed up with can openers to open hundreds of canned goods for the burgoo and then set up the craft fair. The next morning, over 35 volunteers arrived bright and early to start cooking burgoo. Hundreds of people flooded the event and stood in line for burgoo. The community support was amazing and enabled the PTA to make a profit the first year hosting the two events.



Roby Elementary PTA, Shepherdsville, KY



Falloween Festival



Sweets with Santa

Membership

- Plan another membership drive for the New Year!
- Don't forget to send your membership dues in each month by using this [form](#)
- If you have any questions about membership contact Jennifer Jackson at kypta.membership@gmail.com

Programs

Male Involvement

The National PTA 2nd Annual Male Engagement Conference was held earlier this year in Atlanta, GA. The conference was sponsored by four of the nation's finest Male Engagement organizations including National PTA MORE (Men Organized to Raise Engagement), WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students), Strong Fathers, Strong Families, and All Pro Dads. Attendees representing PTA/PTSA's from around the nation came together to collaborate and learn new ways to reach out to the male role models of our children. The Kentucky PTA was represented by nine delegates from local units, Kentucky PTA and Title 1 representatives.

All organizations offered different styles of programming to increase male involvement in schools and more importantly, children's lives. Research has shown that with increased male role model involvement, there is increased health, welfare and self-esteem of children. There is also an improvement in the student's grades and an increase in national and state assessment

scores.

Working together as parents to raise children at home is very important and this initiative only helps strengthen efforts to be "ONE VOICE" for every child. The commitment of National PTA and Kentucky PTA to male involvement is illustrated by the increase in male role models to both the national Board of Directors (now 48% Male) and Kentucky's Board of Directors (now 22% from 7%).

The Kentucky PTA looks forward to working with all local and district units to help develop Male Engagement initiatives. Have questions? Contact J.C. Pendleton, Male Involvement Committee Chair, at kypta.jcpendleton@gmail.com.

Kentucky PTA Scholarships

\$1,000 Harold Steele Student Scholarship

The biennial \$1,000 scholarship is awarded in even numbered years for a two year period-\$500 for each year. The recipient must plan to enter the teaching field and attend a Kentucky college or university.

\$500 Student Scholarship

If funds are available, \$500 scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors from high schools with a PTSA in good standing. Recipients must plan to enter the teaching field and attend a Kentucky college or university.

\$500 Teacher-Member Scholarship

The number of \$500 scholarships awarded is determined by funds available. The purpose of these scholarships is to help teachers obtain credit toward a master's degree or Rank 1st a public college or university in Kentucky or within a state bordering Kentucky.

\$500 Parent-Member Scholarship

This scholarship is for PTA | PTSA parent members pursuing an undergraduate degree in education or a health field at an accredited public college or university in Kentucky.

Provide the counseling office with current Kentucky PTA scholarship forms for students, teachers, and parents. Applications for all these scholarships will be accepted this year and can be found in the [Kentucky PTA Leader's Notebook](#).

Have questions? Contact Veralyn Eyemann, the Scholarships/Awards Chairperson, at Veralyn@roadrunner.com.

Kentucky PTA Awards Deadlines

February 15, 2014

Self Esteem Award applications need to be sent your District President PTAs/PTSAs with NO district leadership should send application(s) to Kentucky PTA.

March 15, 2014

Applications for Awards
 Outstanding Classified Personnel
 Outstanding Educator
 Outstanding Male Involvement/Participation
 Kentucky PTA Penguin Award
 Outstanding Membership Campaign
 Outstanding Programs/Projects
 Outstanding Local Unit Newsletter
 Outstanding School Nurse
 Outstanding Volunteer
 Outstanding Local Unit Website
 Volunteer Participation

Deadlines for District Presidents

Self Esteem - winning entries should be sent to Kentucky PTA by March 15, 2014

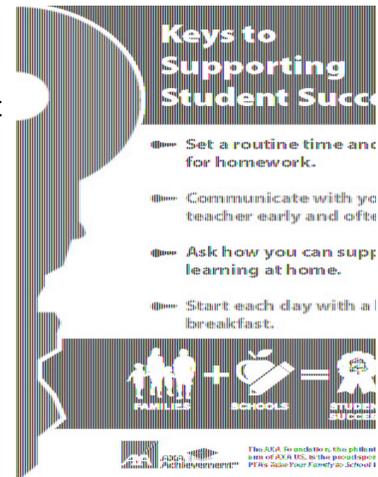
Reflections

Reflections applications were due earlier this month. If you have questions about the program contact your district president or the state Reflections chair, Adrienne Thakur at PTA_Adrienne@yahoo.com.

National Take Your Family to School Week

We encourage all PTAs to participate in PTA Take Your Family to School Week by promoting the toolkit available at www.PTA.org/TYFTSW. Some of the new resources in the kit include:

- [Student Leader's Guide](#)
- [Keys to Supporting Student Success Flyer](#) (Spanish)
- [Supporting Student Success Magnet in English/Spanish](#)
- Several posters promoting year-round messages including: [family engagement tips for teachers](#), [healthy lifestyles](#), [bullying prevention](#), and [Reflections participation](#).



Advocacy

Child Advocacy Day at the Capitol

Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol began in 2004 as an effort to unite advocates from across the state to raise their voices on behalf of children's safety, health, education and economic well-being. Hundreds of advocates from over 50 counties now gather at the Capitol in Frankfort every year to ask legislators to invest in kids. The 11th Annual Children's Advocacy Day is scheduled for Thursday, February 5, 2015. In 2014 more than 600 advocates attended the event in Frankfort! Elected officials, social workers, parents, teachers, judges, doctors, public health experts, therapists, members of the military, seniors, and kids came together to rally on children's issues from the [Blueprint for Kentucky's Children](#) agenda.

Join us for the 11th Annual Children's Advocacy Day on Thursday, February 5, 2015! Registration begins at 9:00 AM, followed by a rally at 10:00 AM, Blueprint Agenda information sessions, and a KIDS COUNT ceremony. Just so we have an idea of how many people to expect, [please RSVP for CAD here](#). (We would love for your group to join us! One person can RSVP for the entire group with an estimate of how many will attend.) And please plan to meet with your legislators to discuss how you want them to support Kentucky children. Steps to prepare to meet with legislators:

- Check out the [Blueprint for Kentucky's Children](#) webpage to learn more about the issues facing Kentucky's children during the 2015 legislative session.
- Make an appointment to visit with your legislators. Please do not wait until the day you arrive to try to get an appointment. You may want to become familiar with your legislator's picture so you can pick them out. Visit [Project Vote Smart](#) or the [Legislative Research Commission](#) website to learn who represents you. Call 502-564-8100 to schedule an appointment.

Learn more about the day by downloading an electronic copy of the last year's booklet: [10th Annual Children's Advocacy Day Booklet](#).

Grassroots Advocacy Event Hosted by the 15th District

Learn how to be an advocate for children at the grassroots training on February 10. All PTA districts are invited. Download the registration form [here](#).

Financial

If you have financial questions concerning the 990 filing with the IRS, insurance, financial review forms, the KDE Redbook or any other financial related items, please contact your district president or the Kentucky PTA Treasurer at bwampler68@gmail.com.

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