

# Legislation & Advocacy News

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## What is Advocacy?

PTA is a child advocacy association. Its legislative mission is to speak on behalf of all children and youth at the local, state and federal levels. One of the Purposes of PTA is “to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.” PTA promotes and encourages legislative advocacy for the education and welfare of all children and youth.

### Role of PTA in Legislation

As local officers of the largest grassroots child advocacy organization in the state, PTA legislative advocacy chairs are responsible for demonstrating leadership on children’s issues at the local level by educating PTA members, community members and elected officials about PTA’s issues of concern and legislative priorities and goals.

California State PTA takes positions on issues/legislation based on position statements in the California State PTA Toolkit, California State PTA resolutions, California State PTA Legislation Platform and National PTA positions and resolutions.

The unit, council or district legislative chair provides PTA members with information about PTA positions on current legislation and issues.

### What to Do

If you are new to advocacy, we encourage you to do the following:

**Request that advocacy is on the agenda of every meeting and give a legislative report.**

Share with PTA members about issues affecting the school and community as well as legislative activities at all levels of government. Remember we are a nonpartisan association, so please be objective and factual. Be sure to include PTA positions when appropriate. Circulate materials from council, district, State, and National PTA when available. Have copies at PTA meetings or information on websites or links where the information can be found.

**Write articles for your PTA newsletter.** Please observe Legislation Policy 11 (Legislative Policies and Procedures) which discusses guidelines for sending materials home with students.

**Participate in one of the following:** a letter writing campaign, a postcard campaign, a rally to support a PTA position.

**Attend some local school board meetings.** Communicate advocacy positions as authorized by your PTA board.

**Establish a method for sharing PTA Legislative Alerts and other important information with PTA members.**

CONTINUE READING →



***Remember:  
No amount of  
fundraising  
can have as  
much impact  
as a single  
piece of  
legislation.***

## What is Advocacy? (continued)

Take Action on Legislative Alerts from California State PTA and National PTA and encourage other PTA members to do the same.

Maintain current contact information for all elected representatives in your area: U.S. Senators, U.S. Congress member, State Senator, State Assembly member, Board of Supervisors members, city council members, and school board members.

*Adapted from the California State PTA Toolkit at CAPTA.org*

## How to Stay Informed

### WEBSITES

- Your school district — BurbankUSD.org
- California State PTA — [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org)
- First District PTA — [PTA1.org](http://PTA1.org)
- National PTA — [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

### EVENTS TO ATTEND

- California State PTA Legislation Conference in Sacramento
- California State PTA Convention
- Council/district PTA-sponsored visits to Sacramento and other advocacy events.
- EdSource Forum
- National PTA Legislative Conference

### HELPFUL RESOURCES

California State PTA — [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org)

- Legislative Alerts (please sign up on the website to receive email updates)
- *PTA in California* magazine

- *California State PTA Toolkit* (Available in both English and Spanish online, in print or on CD). The Advocacy chapter includes: local advocacy, elections, legislative program, legislation platform, listing of resolutions, position statements, policies and procedures
- *Resolutions Book*

National PTA — [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

- PTA Takes Action Network (please sign up to receive e-mail updates on federal policy and PTA Action Alerts)
- National PTA position statements and resolutions
- Online Advocacy Toolkit, Federal public policy agenda and issue briefs
- National PTA *Quick-Reference Guide*
- *Our Children* — National PTA Magazine

California Department of Education — [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov)

California Secretary of State — [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov)

EdSource — [www.edsource.org](http://www.edsource.org)

Legislative Analyst's Office — [www.lao.ca.org](http://www.lao.ca.org)

Official California Legislative Information — [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov)

## Burbank USD in ED100 News!

We are so proud that Burbank Unified School District was featured in a blog post at Ed100.org!

In the story, titled "How Burbank USD Develops Informed School Communities with Ed100", Cathy Biermann president, Emerson Elementary PTA, was quoted as saying, "I'm so glad Ed100 gave me information about the CA education system I wouldn't have known otherwise." Jen Lorigo, a parent from Edison Elementary PTA, said, "Completing the Ed100 program is one of the best things I've done to help Burbank schools."

Dr. Matt Hill was praised for earning his Ed100 completion certificate, and Dr. Reynolds, BUSD Board of Education president, was mentioned for encouraging staff and parents to sign up for Ed100 and complete the course.

To read the full story, visit the Ed100.org blog at <https://ed100.org/blog/how-burbank-uses-ed100>.



Cathy Biermann