

Oklahoma PTA 2018 POLICY AGENDA

Family Engagement in Education More than 40 years of research shows¹ - no matter a family's income or socioeconomic background - students with engaged families • Attend school more regularly • Earn better grades • Enroll in advanced-level programs • Have higher graduation rates. Teachers are more likely to remain in schools where families are involved and are able to develop trusting relationships with families.

Elementary & Secondary Education Reject any proposal to divert funding for public schools through public or private school scholarships, tax incentives, portability or voucher programs. Implement accountability systems that adequately supports all students and provides multiple measures of student achievement and growth.

Early Learning & Childhood Education Research shows that it is imperative to start educating all children before they enter kindergarten. Positive outcomes² associated with early learning include • Increased graduation rates • Higher educational attainment • Lower incarceration rates. Increase access to high-quality, public pre-kindergarten for all students to prepare them for successful kindergarten entry.

Special Education The national average graduation rate for students with disabilities is 20%³ lower than the overall national average. Ensure every student with a disability receives quality instruction from teachers and specialized instructional support personnel who have, at a minimum, successfully completed state licensure or certification processes.

Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Encourage communities to include evidence-based family engagement strategies in juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs. Promote programs that encourage the use of evidence-based, multi-tiered behavioral frameworks, such as Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), instead of zero-tolerance policies that promote exclusionary discipline practices.

Child Health & School Safety Promote policies to inform the general public about the risks and costs of bullying for all children and ways to address, prevent and eliminate bullying behavior. Support and invest in programs that provide for a child's health and wellness - including mental health - as they progress through each stage of development into adulthood.

Gun Safety & Violence Prevention Students traumatized by exposure to violence have been shown to have lower grade-point averages, more negative remarks in their cumulative records and more reported absences from school than other students. Recognize the importance of family engagement in the development and implementation of school safety policies and response plans in order to maintain a safe learning environment for all students.

Oklahoma PTA

Mission

Support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children.

Assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children.

Encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

Oklahoma PTA Councils

Broken Arrow
Lawton
Moore
Norman
Oklahoma City
Stillwater
Tulsa
Union

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2. Deming, D. (2009). Early childhood intervention and life-cycle skill development: Evidence from Head Start. American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, 111-134. Retrieved from http://scholar.harvard.edu/files/ddeming/files/deming_headstart_aejfinal.pdf

3. Balfanz, R., Bridgeland, J., et. al. (2014). Building a Grad Nation: Progress and Challenge in Ending the High School Dropout Epidemic. Washington, DC: Retrieved from http://gradnation.org/sites/default/files/17548_BGN_Report_FinalFULL_5.2.14.pdf