

FEBRUARY 2025



CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

OKLAHOMA PUBLIC ED, OKPTA HOSTING DAY AT THE CAPITOL

In a celebration of Public Education Week, Oklahoma PTA is joining forces with Oklahoma Parent Legislative Coalition and the Rural Schools Coalition to host A Day At The Capitol on Tuesday, February 25, on the Capitol steps in Oklahoma City.

The day promises to bring together parents, educators, and concerned citizens to discuss children, schools, and the state of education in Oklahoma.

Public Schools Week is a week-long celebration that honors the work of public schools, educators, and communities. Sponsored by The Learning First Alliance (LFA), Public Schools Week is a celebration that aims to highlight the achievements of public schools and the people who work in them.

“These events are important to show our elected officials that our public education system is important and is strongly supported by the public,” said OKPTA President Jane York. “Public Schools Week is a time to celebrate the strength of public schools and the potential of students' futures.

All PTA members are welcome to attend. For more information, visit the OKPTA Facebook page or visit www.okpta.org.



President's Message

Working Together Impacts Experiences

As we transition into a new season, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering commitment to our children and schools. Each of you play a vital role in the Oklahoma PTA, and together, we are making a significant impact on the educational experiences of our students.

This past year has been filled with challenges, but also remarkable achievements. I am inspired by the dedication and resilience each of you has shown in advocating for our children's education and well-being. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and they resonate throughout our communities.

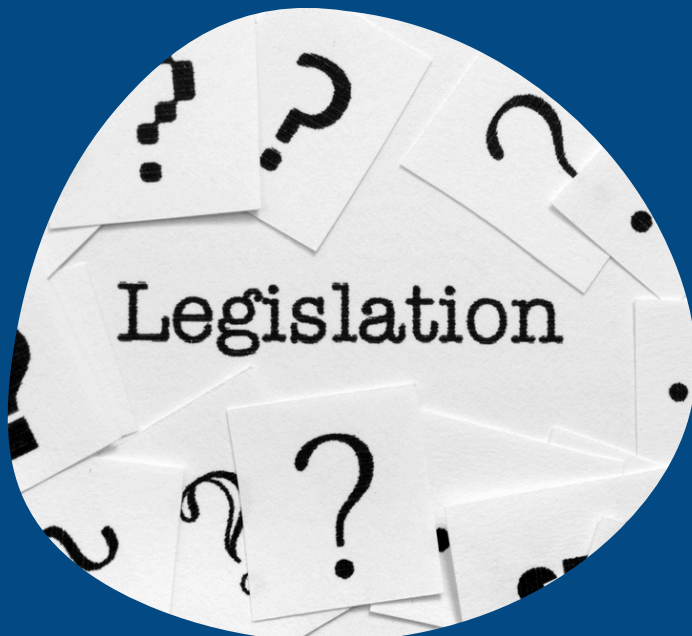
As we look ahead, there are several exciting initiatives and events on the horizon. We are in the process of planning our upcoming state conference, which promises to be an enriching experience filled with workshops, speakers, and the opportunity to connect with fellow members. I encourage each of you to participate and bring your ideas and energy to the table. Your voice matters!

Additionally, we continue to advocate for important policies that support our schools, teachers, and students. I urge you to stay involved, whether it's attending local meetings, volunteering for events, or simply sharing your thoughts with us. Your engagement is crucial as we strive to ensure that every child has access to a quality education.

Let's continue to support one another and work together to create a brighter future for our children. Thank you for your passion, your time, and your dedication to the Oklahoma PTA. Together, we can make a difference.

Jane

Legislative Roundtables



Tulsa Area Legislative Roundtable

April 3 @ 6:30pm

Central on Main

210 N Main Street

Broken Arrow OK

Oklahoma City Area Legislative Roundtable

April 10 @ 6:30pm

Moore Public Library

225 S Howard Ave

Moore OK

Empowering Families to Use Technology Safely

The Internet opens the world up for our kids, and that means they can sometimes experience parts of the world we don't want them to see. You can proactively set boundaries and expectations for healthy online behavior for your family, but having these conversations is not always easy.

Kids want to be granted the freedom to navigate their online lives independently, and often know more about technology than their parent or caregiver.

When technology is used to create kindness, it can:

- Make people feel happy, joyful and hopeful
- Bring people together and build community
- Inspire others to be kind.



At the heart of empowering families in the digital age is the collaborative effort between parents and children. Engaging in open and honest conversations about online experiences can create a foundation of trust. Consider establishing regular family meetings dedicated to discussing the digital landscape, where everyone can share their thoughts and concerns. This not only fosters communication but also allows parents to better understand the challenges their children may face online.

Setting boundaries is crucial in ensuring a positive online experience. Work together with your children to establish guidelines for screen time, appropriate content, and online interactions. By involving them in the decision-making process, you not only promote a sense of responsibility but also encourage them to think critically about their online choices. This collaborative approach helps create a shared understanding of what is acceptable in the digital realm, making it easier for your family to thrive in the vast world of the internet.

February 25
Day at the Capital - OKC

March 4
Advocacy Call

April 3
Legislative Roundtable - Tulsa

April 10
Legislative Roundtable - OKC

April 30
Oklahoma Day of Action - OKC





THINGS YOU CAN DO

To Engage in Your Child's Education in the Home, School and Community

There are many ways to play an active role in your child's education. To keep engagement top of mind year-round, post these simple reminders in your home or office.

In the Home:

1. Develop a consistent routine for studying and homework.
2. Discuss your child's school day and homework daily.
3. Provide a quiet, well-lit place with basic school supplies for studying.
4. Assist with homework, but avoid doing it for your child.
5. Praise your child's efforts and encourage them to serve in student leadership positions.

In the School:

6. Attend parent-teacher conferences and make appointments, as needed, to discuss your child's progress or concerns. Meet your child's teacher(s), school principal and school nurse.
7. Establish the best way for your child's teacher to contact you (phone, email, backpack notes, etc.) to help reinforce school rules and expectations.
8. Attend your PTA meeting or start a PTA to voice your support or concerns.
9. Visit your school's website to stay informed on important information and events.
10. Attend school meetings on learning expectations, assessments and grading procedures.

In the Community:

11. Meet your child's friends and get to know their parents.
12. Learn about school district policies and practices that affect your child.
13. Raise awareness with local agencies and businesses about events taking place at your school.
14. Recruit parents and community members to be PTA volunteers.
15. Write, call or visit local or state decision-makers to support or oppose proposed legislation that affects your child.

Attend your next local PTA meeting. Find out how online at [PTA.org/Join](https://www.pta.org/Join) or call (800) 307-4PTA (4782).