

Support Student Success

Adequate and Equitable School Funding

Pursue an adequate and equitable solution for school funding while maintaining accountability and responsibility for educating the whole child. |

Funding for Growing Public Schools

Ensure funding for student enrollment growth.

Funding for Quality Pre-K Grant Program

The Quality Pre-K Grant Program, initiated by the 84th Legislature, was a positive first step in providing a small number of students with the preparation they need to enter school successfully, and Texas PTA seeks to maintain or increase that funding over the next biennium.

Funding for Full Day Pre-K for At-Risk Students

Seek funding for full day pre-k for at-risk students to ensure that they are fully prepared for success in kindergarten and first grade, and for a strong K-12 school experience.

Health & Safety

Age of Adult Criminal Responsibility

Raise the age for mandatory prosecution as an adult from 17 to 18, allowing non-violent offenders who are 17 years of age to be charged as a minor.

Powdered Alcohol

Pursue banning the sale to minors of powdered alcohol, or Palcohol, a powder that can be mixed with liquids -- similar to the way Kool-Aid is mixed with water -- to create an alcoholic beverage that can have alcohol levels equivalent to a shot of vodka.

Bullying/Cyberbullying

Strengthen the cyberbullying law to protect students from online, often anonymous, bullying by clarifying the role of school districts and other officials in addressing this behavior, and removing barriers to dealing with offenders.

Meaningful Assessment & Accountability

State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness

Advocate for reduced emphasis on state-mandated testing, focusing on grades 3-8, and monitor changes to STAAR for high school students, and limits on benchmark testing for all tested grades.

State Accountability System

Pursue a new accountability system that is valid, reliable and balanced, focuses less on state assessment, and recognizes other attributes of a strong school program, including arts instruction and physical activity.

Charter Schools

Monitor changes made to the charter school program through Senate Bill (SB) 2, as well as new legislation filed.

State Board of Education (SBOE)

Actively weigh in on legislation impacting SBOE and monitor activity of SBOE and its quarterly meetings.

Strengthen Public Schools

Oppose Vouchers

Oppose vouchers, including Education Savings Account Programs (ESA Programs), that allow state funds to be utilized in private schools that are not accountable to the taxpayer or the state.

ESA Programs allow eligible parents to use a portion of the funds the state expends for their student's public school education to fund private school tuition, tuition at eligible institutions, and distance education, curriculum. The remainder of the funds are kept by the public school the student previously attended.

Support Districts of Innovation

Oppose efforts to restrict the latitude given to Districts of Innovation to set their own school calendar.

