



PTA: Advocates for Children

PTA is a very powerful and effective legislative advocacy organization.

- **The first mission statement of National PTA is “To 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”**
- **One of the five purposes of California PTA is “To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.”**
- **“Fourth District PTA will proactively provide advocacy support to councils and units, while implementing a strategic advocacy program” is one of the 2007-08 goals of Fourth District.**

Speaking together with a common concern on issues, the PTAs in California and throughout the nation can form a powerful force to promote laws and public policy that are best for children and youth.

Why is PTA “Suddenly” So Political? Advocacy Through-out the History of PTA



- 1897 Founding meeting of National Congress of Mothers on February 17-19 in Washington, D.C. 200 were expected; 2,000 attended.
- 1900 Legislation suggested for protection of employed children.
- 1905 Resolutions endorsed federal aid for kindergartens and elementary schools and recommended salary increase for teachers.
- 1946 Legislation for permanent federal school lunch program, long advocated by National PTA, enacted.
- 1954 National PTA promoted active participation in National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis field trial tests of vaccine to prevent polio.
- 1984 Convention delegates adopted resolutions on child care facilities for latchkey children; sexual assault prevention education; alcoholic beverages in TV programming; rating system for records, tapes, and cassettes; nuclear education.
- 2002 National PTA is instrumental in strengthening the parent involvement provisions in the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act, renamed the No Child Left Behind Act.

Fourth District
PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.[®]