

About PTA

PTA is an all-volunteer organization working to ensure the health, safety, and academic success of all children.

Our strength is in our diversity. Our members are parents, grandparents, friends, teachers, administrators, businesses, and community members from every walk of life, all working together toward a common goal.



Children and youth are our highest priority.

Fourth District PTA Orange County, CA



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Orange County School Data

Students: 502,895 in 597 schools

Average class size: 29 (State avg. 24.2)

Pupil-Teacher ratio: 26.4 (State avg. 23.1)

Free/reduced price meals: 228,121 (46%)

English language learners: 126,226 (25%)

Special Education: 51,208 (10%)

— California Dept. of Education, 2010-11 data



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Fourth District PTA
Orange County, California



Legislative Agenda 2011-2012



Representing more than 140,000 members and 500,000 children in Orange & southeast LA Counties

www.fourthdistrictpta.org

PTA advocates for all children



Fourth District PTA members join together to advocate for the health, safety, and academic success of every child at the local, state, and federal levels.

Local Priorities

Advocate for programs and services that contribute to the long-term success of all students.

- Advocate for programs that promote school readiness, **student development** and leadership.
- Support the **arts** as an essential and integrated part of the school day and advocate for increased access to arts and music programs for all students.
- Support hands-on inquiry-based **science** programs that stimulate interest, teach content and promote understanding of the scientific method.
- Advocate for site support to ensure the **highest standards** of instruction are provided to each student and that staff are provided with ongoing professional development.
- Promote programs that encourage quality **parental involvement**.

Advocate for student health and safety.

- Advocate for implementation of programs which **prevent bullying** and cyber-bullying

- Support teaching children healthy and active lifestyles, which promote physical **health** as well as academic achievement.
- Advocate for maintaining appropriate levels of adult supervision, counseling services, and **support** staff on all campuses.

Promote active support for public education by engaging Orange County families, businesses and community leaders in PTA advocacy efforts.

- Educate and empower parents and community members to **participate** as education advocates at their local and county school board meetings, city council meetings, and in their communities.
- **Educate** civic and business leaders regarding the importance of public education and the impact of the current state of our schools on the future of Orange County.
- Encourage units and councils to support **partnerships** with local businesses and community groups that will contribute to academic achievement and well-being for all students.

State Issues

Advocate to secure adequate funding for education.



- Support efforts to restructure the state budget process and create a stable **school finance** system that assures all schools receive adequate funding without relying on local fundraising.

• Support California State PTA's efforts to get an **education funding** initiative on the 2012 ballot.

- Advocate for the **repayment** of the Prop 98 maintenance factor.
- Support giving local school districts more **flexibility** in decision-making and the allocating of funds.



Advocate for a comprehensive and well-rounded education for every child in California.

- Support access for every student to a **full curriculum** that includes STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and math), visual and performing arts, and physical education.
- Advocate for programs that promote student **health and safety**, including driving safety.



Federal Focus

Advocate for the reauthorization of ESEA (Elementary & Secondary Education Act).

- Urge Congress to expand and strengthen **parental involvement** provisions.
- Urge Congress to allow states to set ambitious, but achievable, performance **targets** in the subjects included in the state's accountability system to ensure that all students achieve college and career readiness, and that measuring student growth is a top priority.
- Urge Congress to increase student access to highly **qualified teachers**

Advocate for increased funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

- Urge Congress to increase federal funding for IDEA by a minimum of an additional **3% this year**, (up from the current 17%), to move towards the commitment made by Congress when the law was enacted in 1975 that authorized federal funding of 40% of IDEA costs.

Advocate for additional funding for public education.

- Support legislation to provide **funds** for education jobs and school modernization.