

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



President:

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Orange County School Data

Students: 501,801 in 596 schools
Average class size: 28.8 (State avg. 23.6)
Pupil-Teacher ratio: 25.5 (State avg. 22.7)
Students to computer: 7.3 (State avg. 4.8)
Free/reduced price meals: 226,854 (42%)
English language learners: 123,290 (25%)
Special Education: 51,905 (10%)
— California Dept. of Education, 2011-13 data



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*Fourth District PTA
Orange County, California*

PTA®

everychild.one voice.®

Legislative Agenda 2013-2014



Representing more than 135,000 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

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 the Orange County Department of Education, local businesses, and community groups that will contribute to academic achievement and well-being for all students.

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

- Advocate for programs that promote **school readiness**, including early

childhood education and legislation supporting quality preschool.

- Support “**STEAM**” education— science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics — as essential components of the school day.
- Advocate for integrated implementation of California’s new **Common Core** State Standards to ensure the highest standards of instruction for students, ongoing professional development for staff, and quality **parental involvement** through school site and district Local Control Accountability Plans.
- Promote education that teaches **civic responsibility** to students.

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.
- Inform and educate families concerning new affordable **healthcare** options.
- Advocate for appropriate levels of adult supervision, counseling services, and **support** staff on all campuses.

State issues

Advocate to secure adequate funding for education.

- Support efforts to create a **stable school finance** system that assures all schools



receive adequate funding without relying on local fundraising.

- Advocate for **full funding** under Prop 98.
- Support efforts to create **transparent accountability** in the development of Local Control Accountability Plans.



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

- Support funding to schools that ensures access for every student to a **full curriculum** under the new Common Core State Standards, including STEAM and physical education.
- Advocate for programs that promote student **health and safety**, including driving safety.



Federal focus

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

- Urge Congress to expand and strengthen **family engagement** provisions, ensuring transparency and accountability to local communities.
- Urge Congress to allow states to set ambitious, but achievable, **performance targets** in an accountability system that effectively measures student growth to ensure that all students achieve college and career readiness.

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 safe schools.

- Work to support federal programs and policies that promote safe routes to school, prevent bullying, and **protect children** from gun violence.