

## 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: To positively impact the lives of all children and families.



Children and youth are our highest priority.

## Fourth District PTA Orange County, CA



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### Orange County School Data

Students: 497,116 in 605 schools  
Pupil-Teacher ratio: 24.6 (State avg. 21.7)  
English language learners: 26% (129,390)  
Free/reduced price meals: 49% (243,432)  
Socioeconomically disadvantaged: 50.2% (249,485)  
Special Education: 11% (53,005)  
Migrant education students: 11.5% (57,461)  
— California Dept. of Education, 2014-15 data



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*Fourth District PTA  
Orange County, California*

# PTA®

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## Legislative Agenda 2015-16



Representing 130,000 members and more than 500,000 children in Orange & southeast LA Counties

[www.fourthdistrictpta.org](http://www.fourthdistrictpta.org)

# PTA advocates for all children



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

## Local priorities

Programs and services that contribute to the long-term success of all students

- Encourage and empower **family engagement** through parent involvement in school site and district Local Control and Accountability Plans.
- Advocate for programs that promote **school readiness**, including early childhood education and quality pre-school.
- Promote programs that develop and cultivate **civic responsibility**.
- Support “**STEAM**” education — science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics — as essential components of the school day.
- Advocate for programs that serve our most **vulnerable children** — the homeless, foster youth, and English Language Learners.

### Student health and safety

- Advocate for measures that improve **school climate**, including adult supervision, counseling services, and **support staff** such as school nurses and librarians on all campuses.
- Implement programs that **prevent bullying** and cyber-bullying.

- Teach children healthy and active lifestyles to promote physical **health** as well as academic achievement.
- Increase the **safety** of students traveling to and from school through transportation services, crossing guards, and the development of safe routes to school.



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.
- Encourage **partnerships** with the Orange County Department of Education, local business leaders, and community groups that promote academic achievement and well-being for all students.
- **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.

## State issues

Secure adequate funding for education.

- Advocate for sufficient funding to repair, modernize, and construct needed **school facilities**.
- Support efforts to guarantee a **stable school finance** system so that all schools receive adequate funding without relying on ancillary local fundraising.
- Support efforts to ensure **transparent and effective accountability** through Local Control and Accountability Plans.



- Provide local school districts with **flexibility** in decision-making and the allocating of funds, allowing sufficient reserves to support financial stability.
- Improve school **attendance** through policies that reduce truancy and address chronic absenteeism.

Furnish a comprehensive and well-rounded education to every child.

- Support funding to ensure access for every student to a **full curriculum** under the California 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 & Secondary Education Act).

- Urge Congress to expand and strengthen **family engagement** provisions.
- Fight for access to well-rounded curricula, equity protections for disadvantaged populations, and accountability to parents and the community.
- Support measures to ensure student access to highly **qualified teachers**.

Increase 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**, to move towards the commitment made by Congress to authorize federal funding of 40% of IDEA costs.

Advocate for safe schools.

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