



To: Local Unit Presidents
From: Virginia PTA Legislation Committee
Subject: Proposed Legislation Program for 2016
Date: July 31, 2015

The attached is the Virginia PTA Proposed Legislation Program (PLP) for 2016.

This is the crucial time for development of our advocacy program for 2016. As President of your unit, it is of the utmost importance that you assist in the following:

- 1 - circulate the attached program on paper, on your website or in any other member communication
- 2 - point members to the Legislation/Education committee for more information (legislation@vapta.org)
- 3 - conduct a vote on these items so that EVERY member has an opportunity to be heard
- 4 - return the results of the vote to your DISTRICT or COUNCIL BY OCTOBER 23rd.

If approved by our members, the issues below will become part of our 2016 Legislative Priorities. It is so important that the Virginia PTA effectively represent its members. We can only do this by educating members on important issues facing our students, teachers and schools and holding a fair and accurate vote.

Some of these issues may raise questions or concerns. Please encourage your members to contact me or their District Directors to have these questions answered. We are here to help.

Historically, the return on our PLP vote has been low - and we would like to change that. To assist you in your vote gathering, we have included a "Tips for Getting Out the Vote" flyer as well as a ballot. You do NOT need to use this ballot. You may choose to conduct an online poll (as long as the count is accurate) or design your own ballot.

Getting your members educated and involved in the important advocacy process goes to strengthen the PTA as an organization and is just another benefit of membership.

Once the votes are tallied and returned, by you, to your District or Council (by October 23rd), we will announce the results. And again, if approved, these items will become part of our Legislation Program. You can learn more about your 2016 Legislative Priorities and full program at PTA Day at the General Assembly.

Please join us at the General Assembly on February 1, 2016 when we advocate for our organization. PTA Day is our "Lobby Day" and offers you an opportunity to meet with your state Senators and Delegates and be heard on important issues facing your school and PTA. Additional information about PTA Day 2016 is enclosed in this mailing.

If you have any questions or would like more information or to get more involved, please do not hesitate to contact the Legislation/Education committee at legislation@vapta.org!



2016
Proposed Legislation Program
LETTER FOR MEMBERS

Dear PTA Member -

The following are TWO items recommended to you for consideration. In the early fall, you will be asked to VOTE on these items as part of the 2016 Proposed Legislation Program (PLP). If you have any questions about these items, the rationale or history, please do not hesitate to contact the committee at legislation@vapta.org.

Please familiarize yourself with the issues below and be prepared to cast a vote so that your state Legislation committee is effectively advocating on your behalf.

POLICY/POSITION STATEMENTS (PS): Statements of Virginia PTA on general issues and may be used as the basis for addressing issues before the General Assembly, Virginia Board of Education or other appropriate agencies.

POSITION STATEMENT #1:

Virginia PTA supports development of a technology funding formula that will provide predictable and continuing revenue for educational technology and equipment. This formula shall also include funding for support personnel to train and assist in the use of educational technology.

Rationale:

In many divisions, the cost of technology, infrastructure and the personnel and training of this technology is funded locally with very little if any state support. Development of a funding formula will reduce this local burden and go to encourage equity in access to technology.

POSITION STATEMENT #2:

Virginia PTA supports the adoption of parent engagement plans at the state and local level. Plans should include effective parent engagement practices such as:

- Create a welcoming school climate.
- Provide families information related to child development and creating supportive learning environments.
- Establish effective school-to-home and home-to-school communication
- Strengthen families' knowledge and skills to support and extend their children's learning at home and in the community.
- Engage families in school planning, leadership and meaningful volunteer opportunities.
- Connect students and families to community resources that strengthen and support students' learning and well-being

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