

2013 National PTA Public Policy Agenda Now Available



The [2013 National PTA Public Policy Agenda and Executive Summary](#) is now available. Each year, National PTA publishes its top federal policy priorities and recommendations for Congress and the Administration. The 2013 agenda includes a new section on school safety, which features policy recommendations related to safe routes to school, anti-bullying efforts and gun violence prevention.

Help Advocate for the Mental Health in Schools Act

2013 National PTA Legislative Conference

Registration Now Open!

Registration for the 2013 National PTA Legislative Conference is now open! Taking place March 12-14, 2013 in Arlington, VA, the National PTA Legislative Conference brings PTA advocates to the nation's capital for comprehensive advocacy trainings, PTA policy issue debriefs, Congressional visits and more. For a full schedule of events and to register, click [here](#).

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National PTA recently endorsed the Mental Health in Schools Act of 2013, a bill that, if enacted, would increase access to mental health services and support for students and families. The bill, which has been introduced in each of the last several Congresses, was introduced in the Senate this session by Sen. Al Franken (D-MN), and by Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA) in the House of Representatives.

National PTA strongly advocates for a comprehensive approach to improved school safety and believes access to mental health services, in addition to gun violence prevention, is key to combating and preventing school violence. National PTA launched an action alert in support of the Mental Health in Schools Act and encourages PTA members to send an e-mail to their Members of Congress urging them to cosponsor this important legislation. An e-mail can be sent directly from the [PTA Takes Action Network](#).

USDA Releases Proposed Rule on
“Competitive Foods” in School



On February 1, 2013, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a rule outlining proposed minimum nutrition standards for competitive foods. The promulgation of a proposed rule initiates a public comment period on school foods sold through vending machines, a la carte lines, and school stores.

National PTA and its network of nearly 5 million parents and educators strongly supported the enactment of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which passed with bipartisan support in 2010. Its continued implementation, including the establishment of nutritional guidelines for competitive foods, is a top priority for National PTA.

With the goal of supporting the USDA in delivering the best guidance and improving access to healthy food for children and youth, National PTA plans to provide constructive feedback in response to the proposal's details and encourages its members to do the same. Model comments will be provided by National PTA within the next week. Additional information on PTA's policy on competitive foods can be found in National PTA's [2013 Federal Public Policy Agenda](#).

Advocate for this Unique Educational Experience!



Students on a four-masted ship during a Future Leaders Forum

Get involved with the PTA Future Leaders Forum in Washington, DC. This is an exclusive PTA member opportunity for middle-school students to grow as leaders, fulfill their leadership potential and follow in the footsteps of great leaders.

Learn more at www.peopletopeople.com/PTA and share the experience with teachers, parents, and other PTA advocates through this informative [12-minute webinar](#).

Help future leaders in your area have this life-changing opportunity to:

- **Gain valuable insights** from speakers like astronaut **Roger Crouch**
- **Explore the Supreme Court, Library of Congress and famous monuments, memorials, and museums** of America's capital.
- Participate in an **advocacy panel discussion on Capitol Hill.**
- **Visit the new U.S. Institute of Peace headquarters**, step inside the Global Peacebuilding Center, and take part in an **exclusive international conflict-resolution program.**
- **Make a difference** by giving back during a half-day service project.

Get a group of 15 students together, and a parent or teacher designated by your PTA can **participate in the program free of charge.**

Space is limited, so encourage parents to [enroll today](#)

online or contact an admissions advisor at
(888) 275-5061 to ensure a spot.

[National PTA](#) | (800) 307-4PTA (4782) | info@pta.org

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