**Federal Legislative Priorities**

The current Iowa PTA priorities are aligned to National PTA’s checklist for the 116th Congress currently in session.

* Parent and Family Engagement in Education
* Increase Investment in Education
* Full Funding and reauthorization of Individual Disability Education Act, IDEA
* Reauthorize the Child Nutrition Act
* Protect Children, Families and Communities from Gun and Other Violence
* Protect Student Privacy Online and Increase Access to Technology

For more information on these points please follow the link provided, <https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/files/advocacy/public-policy-agenda/2019/issue-briefs/leg-checklist-trifold.pdf>

**Position Statements**

Iowa PTA position on important topics affecting children and educators are aligned with National PTA advocacy efforts and campaigns.

* Public Dollars for Public Schools
* #STOPCutsToClassrooms
* Equity in Education

**State Legislative Priorities**

Our state legislative session will convene in January 2020. Iowa PTA will work with our membership and other organizations in our state who share a common interest to further education by supporting teachers, and aim at ensuring every child achieves its full potential. Iowa PTA priorities outline the focus for our state advocacy.

* Adequate and Timely State Funding through State Supplemental Assistance for School Districts
* Expand Support for Children Mental Health Funding {Legislation was passed but no appropriations was provided during the 2019 session.}
* Expand Support for English Language Learners
* Expand Early Childhood Education
* No to Educational Scholarships and/or Savings Accounts and Student Tuition Organization, STO, Tax credits {Public Dollars for Public Schools}
* Protect Iowa Public Employee Retirement System, IPERS

**Position Statements**

Iowa PTA position on important topics affecting children and educators are aligned with other education and state organizations advocacy efforts.

* *School Choice*: Iowa law provides sufficient choice through public charter schools, open enrollment, home school assistance, post-secondary enrollment options and nonpublic school alternatives. Additional *investment in tax credits for nonpublic tuition or other options are not necessary to provide educational choice.*
* *Education Technology*: Technology is an important tool in providing a quality public education. School districts must have equitable access to technology. Access includes provision of hardware, software, technological support staff and access to a variety of Internet, broadband and network services including the Iowa Communication Network, ICN. Administration of the ICN should continue to prioritize educational access above other users. *The state has a role in ensuring equitable access to technology*.
* *Teacher Quality:* Quality teaching is essential to high student achievement. In order to recruit the best and brightest teachers into Iowa and retain our current quality teacher workforce. *It is of high importance for school funding levels to remain sufficient to pay competitive wages.*
* *Child Health:* Provide children with access to healthcare. Immediate enrollment into Medicaid or CHIP coverage at birth. Extend Medicaid, early periodic screening, diagnoses and treatment.

**References:**

1. National PTA Advocacy, <https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy>
2. Iowa School Board Advocacy Agenda, <https://www.ia-sb.org/Main/Advocacy_Center/IASB_s_Advocacy_Agenda/Iowa_School_Boards_Advocacy_Agenda.aspx>
3. Child and Family Policy Center, <https://www.cfpciowa.org/en/advocacy/policy_priorities/>