President's Message

Happy Fall Everyone! The school year is in full swing and so are all of the fall festivities. This is my favorite season and year after year, I look forward to the apple orchard and pumpkin farm visits with the kids. I know that you do too, and that is why we would love to feature your special events on our Facebook page and in our newsletter. Forward photos of your PTA happenings to info@wisconsinpta.org; along with your local unit name, a short description and we will share your event in a future post or newsletter.

Angie Mattes
WI PTA President

Let us talk a little bit about Good Standings. To be in good standings your PTA Unit/Council must:

- Adhere to the objects and basic policies of the PTA
- Have 10 or more members to organize a local unit and 15 or more members to sustain good standing status of an existing unit.
- Remit the State and National portion of dues to Wisconsin PTA annually on or before November 1st and on the 15th of each month thereafter.
- Review or revise their bylaws every 3 years and submit copies for approval by the Wisconsin PTA Bylaws Committee.
- Submit an officer list to Wisconsin PTA by September 15th. (This is done through MemberHub)
- Audit the treasurer's books and submit the PTA audit form to Wisconsin PTA by November 1st.
- Submit proof of filing IRS required taxes with either proof of online filing (MemberHub) or a copy of State & Federal tax forms by December 15th

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the state office at (608)244-1455. Sheila Endicott is our Office Manager and she will answer your question or direct you to the appropriate person who can. We are here for you and want you to be successful. After all, your work is important to thousands of children, state wide.

Lastly, it is very important to make sure that you include Leadership Training in your yearly budget. Convention falls under Leadership training and at the annual Convention, you will learn how to operate your PTA, conduct the annual business of PTA, vote on important Bylaws that affect you, and advocate for children all across the state. This year Convention will be held at the Embassy Suites in Brookfield April 12-14th. We are planning on hosting 12 workshops along with several fantastic keynote speakers. More details to come. Be well everyone and stay safe.

Sincerely,
Angie Mattes
President
WI PTA
Nothing scary about it -
We've extended the Back to School Award Deadline to October 31, 2018.
What a treat!
Wisconsin PTA Board Member Letter of Interest

Wisconsin PTA Member: October 2018

Are you interested in taking your PTA knowledge to the next level by becoming part of the Wisconsin PTA board of directors? If you are, it is time for you to consider the role you would like to play in the future work of Wisconsin PTA.

In order to facilitate officer and chair nominations, we ask that you complete and return this letter of interest. Letters of interest will be used by the committee in the following order:

- Nomination of Officers
- Nomination of Chairs

Please place your completed form in a sealed envelope marked “letter of interest” and return on or before January 15, 2019 to the address below. Letters will be opened by the chair of the officer nominating committee – DO NOT EMAIL.

Wisconsin PTA
4797 Hayes Road, Suite 102
Madison, WI 53704

Thank you for your consideration to further serve the Wisconsin PTA.

Influencing our future,
Michael R. Anton, Nominating Committee Chair

Name: ___________________________________ Unit/Council: ___________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

Phone Number: _____________________________________

Email: ____________________________________________

Region: _______ Date: _____________________________

Current Wisconsin PTA Position (if any): __________________________________________________

Number of full terms in current Board position: _____________________________________________

Past Positions: ______________________________________________________________________

Qualifications:
- Each officer must have served a minimum of one (1) year on the state board or will have served one (1) full term on the board of a local PTA/council by the time they take office.
- President-elect candidates shall have served as president at the local level
- Vice president, secretary and treasurer candidates shall have served in any elected position at the local level.
- Description of each position can be found on the following pages

Revised 10.11.18
Wisconsin PTA Board Member Letter of Interest

Please indicate your position interest. Select all which apply.

Elected Officers

☐ President Elect
☐ Vice President
☐ Secretary
☐ Treasurer

Elected Chairs: may only serve two (2) consecutive terms

☐ Bylaws
☐ State Legislative Chair
☐ Federal Legislative Chair
☐ Membership
☐ Reflections
☐ Education

Appointed Chairs and Positions

☐ Awards
☐ Bulletin Editor
☐ Convention Chair
☐ Diversity
☐ Extension Chair
☐ Health & Welfare
☐ Public Relations
☐ Region Advisor (Region _____)
☐ Resource Development
☐ Technology Chair
☐ Youth Representative

Please answer the following questions and include additional sheet(s) of paper if needed
What are you passionate about/which position are you most interested in?

Qualifications for positions marked above:

Future (beyond next term) goals and ambitions with WI PTA:
Wisconsin PTA Board Member Letter of Interest

Position Descriptions – Please keep these pages for your reference.

ELECTED OFFICERS

President Elect: Succeeds current president, performs duties of president in president’s absence, acts as an aid to the president, on Executive Committee, member of Legislative, Joan Dykstra Friend of Education & Site Selection Committees, Director of Leadership Commission and Region Advisors

Vice President: On Executive Committee, Director of Education and Health & Welfare Commissions, Chair of Policy & Procedure, Resolutions and Site Selection Committees

Secretary: On Executive Committee. Keep an accurate account of all meetings; be prepared to read the records of any previous meetings; file all records; assist with Parliamentary Procedure.

Treasurer: On Executive Committee. Maintain a full account of the funds of the WI PTA; cause to be kept a full and accurate account of the receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the WI PTA; Render a written statement to the board of directors at each meeting; present an annual report of the financial condition of the organization; prepare or cause to be prepared an annual report for audit,

ELECTED CHAIRPERSONS

Bylaws: Processes local unit bylaws, suggests & prepares amendments to the WI PTA bylaws when needed, holds workshop at Leadership Conference, is a member of the Policy and Procedures and an advisory member of the Reflections and Membership Committees.

Legislative Chairs: Is a member of the Executive Committee, keeps the membership current on, either state or national, legislative activities, attends legislative hearings, meetings and conferences, issues calls to action, is an advisory member of the Resolutions Committee, conducts a Legislative Conference and workshops at Convention and Leadership Conference, federal chair attends National Legislative Conference, submits monthly newsletter articles.

Membership: Helps local chairs with OMDR and recruiting techniques, oversees the tabulation, recording and reporting of membership totals, is responsible for planning, processing and distributing all membership awards, plans a membership event at Convention, conducts a workshop at Leadership Conference.

Reflections: Runs the Reflections program at the state level, processes the winning entries and keeps Reflections records, notifies winners, plans and is master of ceremony at the Reflections celebration, conducts a workshop at Leadership Conference.

Health and Welfare: Keeps current on health and welfare issues and reports to the board, oversees health grants to local units, suggests and writes resolutions on health and welfare issues when needed.

Education: Promotes and administers the WI PTA Teacher of the Year Program, keeps current on educational issues and reports to the board, suggests and writes resolutions on educational issues when needed.

Convention: Plans and runs convention

Revised 10.11.18
Wisconsin PTA Board Member Letter of Interest

**Awards:** Responsible for updating and processing award applications; Set due dates; promote Awards program; appropriately notify recipients; work with convention committee to plan award presentations.

**Marketing:** Promotes PTA, writes for grants, seeks sponsorship & member benefits.

**Bulletin Editor:** Creates newsletter from submitted articles, solicits articles as needed, finds articles to fill space if needed.

**Technology:** Maintains website, advises board on technology needs; oversees technology used during meetings and at convention; communicate needs to chairs.

**Diversity:** Shall serve on Membership and there report the efforts of the diversity committee; maintain database of leaders of the diverse groups in the community and coordinate efforts to collaborate with them; maintain list of translation options for WI PTA.

**Extension:**
Work collaboratively with the president, BOD and the National PTA extension liaison to develop an annual extension plan for the state based on membership and demographic information to identify schools and communities in which efforts will be targeted to establish new PTA units.

**Special Project Coordinator:** works under the guidance of the president on projects of the president's choice.

**Region Advisor:** Keep in contact with local PTAs in region, works with units to stay in good standing; answers questions; visits local units; organizes new PTAs in Region; presents PTA work to non-PTA groups; Arrange and presides at region events.

**Resource Development:** Identify sources of revenue (grants, sponsors), ensure compliance with National PTA fundraising goals and objectives, create ongoing relationships with Wisconsin PTA supporters.

**Youth Representative:** Shall work in collaboration with National, State and Local PTAs to provide education resources, leadership training and opportunities to increase youth participation and visibility in PTA.

*Revised 10.11.18*
Bylaws Review/Revise Process

Bylaws are your unit’s legal organizing document, outline the structure of your PTA and protect the rights of your members. They should be a document that you refer to often and need to be kept up to date. Therefore, they need to be reviewed and revised every three years; more often if the needs of your unit change. Because of their legal importance, proper procedure must be followed when revising them.

1. Start at least 60 days before they are due or you want the change to take effect.
2. Select a bylaws committee of 3 or 5 members
3. Review your current bylaws to see if you need to make changes
4. Changes to your bylaws are called amendments, if you need to amend your bylaws:
   a. Write up the proposed amendments, include the current wording and the proposed wording.
   b. Present the amendments at a meeting and post them for 30 days, giving notice of the time and place of the vote
   c. The amendments must pass by a 2/3 vote of members present and voting and the amendments can be amended before the vote
5. Once all changes are approved, download the current WI PTA bylaws form from the WI PTA website
6. Fill in the blanks with your unit’s information
7. Get the signature page signed and include the date that the membership approved the bylaws, not the date the committee signs them
8. Submit the bylaws to WI PTA for approval using the instructions included with the bylaws form
9. Your old bylaws stay in effect until the new ones are approved by WI PTA
State Bylaws Amendments

This cover sheet must accompany each **STATE BYLAWS AMENDMENT** proposed for action by delegates to the Wisconsin PTA Convention.

******************************************************************************
CONVENTION ACTION COVER SHEET
******************************************************************************

**NAME OF UNIT:** ________________________________

**ORIGINATING GROUP:** This bylaws amendment is from a:

Local ____  Council ____  State ____

This amendment refers to:
Wisconsin PTA State Bylaws
Page# _____
Article# _____
Section# _____

This amendment has been approved by:  Date of Approval

General Membership ____________
Board of Directors ____________
Executive Board ____________

******************************************************************************

**CHECKLIST:**

- The proposed action............

______ is submitted from a PTA/PTSA unit in good standing?
______ has signatures of group’s president and secretary?
______ provides addresses and telephone numbers of group’s president and secretary?

Signature of President __________________________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________________________________
City/Zip __________________________ Telephone (____) __________

Signature of Secretary __________________________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________________________________
City/Zip __________________________ Telephone (____) __________
State Bylaws Amendments

According to the Wisconsin PTA State Bylaws Article XX, section 2:

a. Amendments may be proposed to the bylaws committee by a PTA unit, Council, Wisconsin PTA executive committee, or members of the State Board of Directors.

b. Proposed amendments submitted by local PTA units and councils shall be sent to the Chairman of the State Board Bylaws Committee not later than January 15th.

c. All proposed amendments shall be submitted to the State Board of Directors, with recommendation from the Bylaws Committee, at its winter meeting.

d. Proposed amendments, not recommended by the Board of Directors may be presented by a submitting unit with the permission of two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates present and voting.

e. Notice of the approved and unapproved proposed amendments to be presented at convention shall be sent to all PTA units, councils and members of the State board of Directors at least 30 days before the annual convention.

Please review the Wisconsin State PTA Bylaws and if you feel there is a need to amend any portion please submit the amendment attached to a Convention Action Cover Sheet. Each amendment must be submitted with a separate cover sheet. The Wisconsin State PTA Bylaws and cover sheet can be found online on the Wisconsin PTA website.

Proposed state bylaws amendments must be sent to the Wisconsin State PTA Office no later than January 15th.

Wisconsin PTA
Bylaws Committee
4797 Hayes Road, Suite 102
Madison, WI 53704-3256

If you have any questions regarding this please contact the Wisconsin PTA office.
SCHOLARSHIP: FOR EMERGING PTA LEADERS!

Sponsored by Wisconsin Alumni & Community PTA

A local unit of alumni PTA and community members, dedicated to the objects of PTA, Leadership, Advocacy and Scholarship. Working to promote and support Wisconsin PTA, the Brookmire-Hastings Scholarship Fund and the Joan Dykstra PTA Scholarship Fund.

October, 2018

Dear Local Unit President,

For more than 30 years the Wisconsin Alumni and Community PTA (Alumni) has been the major contributor to the Brookmire-Hastings Scholarship Fund and has maintained the Joan Dykstra PTA Scholarship Fund.

The Brookmire-Hastings Scholarship benefits PTA high school seniors planning to enter the field of education. Since 1976, Alumni PTA has donated almost $35,000.

The Joan Dykstra PTA Scholarship was established in 1997 to honor Joan Dykstra, past president of Wisconsin and National PTAs. This scholarship is for PTA members and is designed to promote leadership and advocacy. Joan’s belief was that every PTA member needs the experience of a PTA convention.

Alumni hopes you’ll nominate a PTA leader in your unit who would benefit by applying for the Joan Dykstra Scholarship. This nominee needs to be an active member of a Wisconsin PTA local unit who exhibits leadership skills and volunteer service. Special consideration will be given those new to PTA or have never attended a PTA convention. The scholarship presentation (up to $350) will be made at the 2018 Wisconsin PTA Convention. (Copy of the paid registration is required). The Goal of the scholarship: Recipient uses the experience of attending convention to further their PTA growth and in turn, benefit their local unit.

Alumni wishes to challenge and encourage your local unit to support these PTA endeavors by considering a donation to these funds as a means to show your on-going commitment to education and leadership growth.

To apply for the Joan Dykstra Scholarship: Simply complete the attached application and send it to:
Alumni PTA, c/o Gail Radonski, 7822 W. Manitoba St. West Allis, WI 53219

Must be received by March 1, 2018 to be considered.

Sincerely,

Gail Radonski
Wisconsin Alumni & Community PTA President

We appreciate your efforts and your support always!

Name: __________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________
City: __________________ Zip: _____
$________ Donation to the Joan Dykstra PTA Scholarship Fund
$________ Donation to the Brookmire-Hastings Scholarship Fund

Clip and send with your donation check to: Wisconsin Alumni & Community PTA Treasurer,
Heidi Nicolazzo 610 9th St, Racine, WI 53403
2018 JOAN DYKSTRA PTA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
TO THE 2018 WISCONSIN PTA CONVENTION
(To be filled out in full PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE – not to exceed the allowed space)

NAME: __________________________________________________________
ADDRESS: _______________________________________________________
TELEPHONE: ___________________________ EMAIL: ___________________
PTA UNIT NAME: __________________________ CITY: __________________
NUMBER OF YEARS MEMBER OF LOCAL PTA UNIT: ___________________
POSITIONS/OFFICES HELD: _________________________________________
EVIDENCE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE: __________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
EVIDENCE OF LEADERSHIP SKILLS: ________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

HAVE YOU EVER ATTENDED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS?
CONVENTION: ATTENDED □ yes □ no DATES: _______________________
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE: ATTENDED □ yes □ no DATES: ______________
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE: ATTENDED □ yes □ no DATES: ______________

Why do you want to attend the 2018 Wisconsin PTA Convention?
How will this Scholarship help your local unit?

How will this Scholarship help you in your role as a PTA leader?

Mail this application to:
Alumni
DYKSTRA SCHOLARSHIP
c/o Gail Radonski
7822 W. Manitoba St.
West Allis, WI 53219

MUST BE RECEIVED March 1, 2019 TO BE CONSIDERED.

Notifications will be made on/before March 15, 2019
INFORMATION TO GUIDANCE COUNSELORS IN
WISCONSIN PTA/PTSA HIGH SCHOOLS

Wisconsin PTA requests your cooperation and assistance in securing applicants for the Brookmire Hastings scholarship and submitting confidential information to the Brookmire-Hastings committee, charged with the responsibility of selecting and informing the scholarship recipients. There is no limit to the number of eligible applicants submitted from each PTA/PTSA high school.

APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS
1. Student graduating in 2019 from a Wisconsin high school with a PTA/PTSA unit in good standing.
2. Student must possess good interpersonal relationship skills necessary for the requirements of a teaching profession or related educational field.
3. Student demonstrates scholastic ability.
4. Student possesses leadership qualities.
5. Student needs to have expressed an intention to pursue a career in the field of education.

REQUIREMENTS
The following materials must be included with the application form. Failure to include all required materials may disqualify the applicant.

1. Two (2) complete sets of the required items (see #2 below) for each applicant must be attached to the Application Form and submitted to the address below by the deadline detailed below in “Deadlines and Notification Dates.”
2. Items listed below must be attached and submitted with the Application Form:
   a) Printed (no smaller than 12 point font) article titled, “Teaching: My Hopes, Dreams and Goals,” double-spaced, not to exceed two pages in length;
   b) One letter of recommendation from the principal or other faculty member attesting to the applicant’s fitness for pursuing a career in the field of education;
   c) List of activities in which the applicant participated while in middle and/or high school. (list may include family and community activities);
   d) Transcript of the applicant’s scholastic records for high school, and;
   e) Copy of grades for the first semester of the applicant’s final year of high school.

DEADLINES AND NOTIFICATION DATES
All Applications and attachments
MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN February 17, 2019

Final award selection is made by the Brookmire-Hastings committee. The recipient will be invited and encouraged to attend the 110th Wisconsin PTA Annual Convention, held in Waukesha April 12-13, 2019, to be presented with the scholarship award.

Send completed applications and attachments to:
Wisconsin PTA
Attn: Brookmire-Hastings Scholarship
4797 Hayes Road, Suite 102
Madison WI 53704-3256
HISTORY

The Emma Brookmire Memorial Fund was established in 1948 as a loan fund for college students in honor of Emma Brookmire, who was an outstanding teacher and also served as Field Secretary of the Wisconsin PTA. In 1963, the memorial fund was changed to a scholarship fund. In 1952, the Wisconsin PTA created a scholarship for promising high school graduates in honor of Minetta Hastings, a past President of the Wisconsin and National PTAs. In 1967, the two funds were combined to form the Brookmire-Hastings Scholarship Fund.

PURPOSE

The scholarship is awarded to two outstanding graduates of Wisconsin high schools which has a PTA/PTSA “unit in good standing.” These graduates must intend to pursue a career in the field of education.

AMOUNT AND MANNER OF PAYMENT

Wisconsin PTA will award two scholarships annually in the amount of $1,000 each. Payments to the selected recipients will be made during the annual convention. Recipients are strongly encouraged to attend the convention; the time of the presentation during the convention is negotiable within the limits of the convention schedule.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Funding for the Brookmire-Hastings Scholarship comes from three sources. The largest amount comes from local PTA units (major contributors having been the Wisconsin PTA Alumni unit; councils; and from the annual PTA convention through delegate donations and the Wall of Fame). The interest which is earned on the principal and individual gifts and memorials are additional sources.

PROCEDURE

This information is mailed to all Wisconsin public high schools, which have a PTA/PTSA unit in good standing as of November 1st of the current school year. A guide for the selection of the applicants follows. All necessary information must be attached to the Application Form.
2019 BROOKMIRE-HASTINGS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

This portion of the application is to be completed by the applicant:
Please type or print clearly.

Applicant’s Full Name: ____________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ Zip: _______________________

Email: ______________________________________ Phone: (____) ______

This portion or the application is to be completed by a school staff member.

Brief statement of the applicant's personality and character qualifications: _______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

Potential Rank in graduating class ___________________________ of __________

Date this application was completed ____________________________

Name of High School _____________________________________________

Address _________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ Zip ______________________

PTA/PTSA President _____________________________________________

Principal _______________________________________________________

Signature of staff member completing the section ________________________

Attach all other required information to this Application Form when submitting the application. Remember to submit two (2) complete sets for each applicant.

FYI CHECKLIST:

☐ Application  ☐ Essay  ☐ Recommendation Letter  ☐ Activities List  ☐ Transcript  ☐ 1st Semester Grades
SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS

A founding principle of National PTA's mission is to promote the safety and well-being of all children and youth. School safety is a critical priority for all parents, educators, students, and community members that cannot be taken for granted. Students and educators have a right to attend schools that are safe and conducive to learning and achievement, yet schools often experience critical incidents such as suicide, natural disasters, or a mass casualty event that have a devastating impact on students, parents, educators, and the community.

National PTA recognizes that school safety is a multi-faceted issue with no one clear solution for each community. All efforts to address school safety must involve all stakeholders, especially students, parents, and families and take into account a variety of factors including the physical and psychological safety of students. Our association promotes the implementation of evidence-based policies and practices articulated in A Framework for Safe and Successful Schools.¹ Any decision regarding physical security measures must be locally determined, collaborative and specifically include input from students, parents, families, educators, school leaders and the community.

National PTA believes the most effective day-to-day school climate to be gun-free, which includes not arming teachers and administrators, but defers to local collaborative decision-making regarding the presence of law enforcement deployed in community-oriented policing and school building security.² If the decision is made to have a Student Resource Officer (SRO) or other security agency within a school building, there must be a clearly defined memorandum of understanding between the law enforcement agency and the school that articulates the role of the school resource officer.³

The association and its constituent bodies promote the establishment of, and support for policies and procedures that emphasize the following:

Family Engagement

- Involve students, parents and families in the development, implementation and evaluation of all school safety plans, including emergency preparedness, crisis response, and threat assessment protocols, school discipline policies and procedures, and student health and wellness support services.
- Conduct regular and timely communication with families about safety policies and procedures including school evacuation plans and reunification protocols.

School districts and schools must communicate clearly and regularly to all families regarding school safety matters in languages that are accessible to them. This includes two-way, meaningful communication on the types of safety drills conducted, what students and parents can expect for drills and in the event of an actual emergency, what physical and psychological safety measures are in place, and the role and responsibilities of any type of security personnel on school premises, if applicable.

- Establish ongoing opportunities for students and parents to provide input on the school environment and climate.

Adequate Funding

- Investment from Federal, state and local decision makers for the necessary physical and psychological student supports and services, including locally determined physical safety measures, appropriate resources for health and wellness services, increased qualified, school-based health and wellness practitioners, and routine mental health screenings for all students.

- Specifically, we urge Congress to fully fund Title IV-A, the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant program under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) at its authorized level to support safe and healthy students through comprehensive school mental health programs, drug and violence prevention programs, training on trauma-informed practices, and other health and physical education programs.

School Climate and Student Support Services

- Promote a positive school climate that encourages nurturing relationships, and mutual trust and respect among students, staff and families.

- Improve staffing ratios of school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, and school nurses to provide school-based behavior, health and mental health services.

- Provide the necessary resources and support to ensure students can receive a proactive continuum of behavioral and mental health services.

- Provide professional development for all school-based employees on youth mental health including early intervention, prevention and access to school and community based mental health services.\(^4\)

- Distribute information on and connect students and families to appropriate integrated health and wellness services within the school and community.

- Integrate school wide multiltiered systems of support (MTSS) and provide professional development for all school personnel on MTSS.

- Establish, clearly communicate and fairly implement policies regarding bullying, harassment and discipline that meet all federal, state and local requirements pertaining to investigations, recording, and reporting.

---

School districts and schools should regularly examine these policies and procedures, and their impact on all groups of students.

- Develop and implement anonymous reporting and response procedures where students, staff, and families can report concerning behaviors or potential threats to promote access to support services.

Physical Safety

- Establish a clear and enforceable visitor/guest identification system and provide training for school staff to recognize and report individuals who are not properly identified.
- Examine on a regular basis the use, functionality, and effectiveness of all locally determined physical security measures.
- Evaluate access points to the school and surrounding property including parking lots, open spaces, playgrounds, and playing fields to limit access to non-school personnel during school hours.
- Create a policy on the use of school facilities for non-related school activities and clearly communicate that policy to parents, families and the community.

Adopted: by the 2018 Board of Directors
SEPARATION OF UNDOCUMENTED CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

A founding principle of National PTA’s mission is to promote the safety and well-being of all children and youth. National PTA recognizes that the United States began as a country of immigrants and the resulting blend of cultures enriches our nation. National PTA believes all children, regardless of their immigration status, have the right to access a quality public education, adequate food and shelter, and basic health care services. The separation of a child from their parent creates toxic stress and trauma that can have significant harm on a child’s brain development. Children entering the United States either unaccompanied or accompanied by a parent or adult family member must be treated with dignity and respect, should be adequately cared for, and reunited with their family as soon as possible under U.S. laws and policies.

The National PTA supports the following statements:

- Family unity is a core principle of society. Children belong with their parents, family members or legal guardian.

- The 1997 Flores Settlement Agreement (Flores) lays out the protections and expectations regarding the detention, release, and care of all children – both accompanied and unaccompanied undocumented children – arriving in the United States.

- The separation of families for purposes of immigration enforcement, management, or detention is never in the best interest or well-being of children. Children should not be used as a deterrent to enter the United States.

- If a child is separated from their parent(s) during immigration detention, federal policy should ensure children are reunited as soon as possible with their parent(s) in accordance with Flores to maintain family unity while they pursue their immigration and protection claims.

It is in the national interest to ensure all children, including undocumented children, have the opportunity to reach their full potential and become productive members of society.

National PTA calls on the U.S. Congress and the administration to take the necessary steps to immediately stop any zero-tolerance policy that may result in harmful separation of undocumented children from their parents or family members. National PTA also seeks the immediate reunification of families presently separated under current enforcement policy.

Adopted: by the 2018 National PTA Board of Directors

Endorsed: by the 2018 Convention Delegates