

How Will Proposed Budget Cuts Affect Our Students?

By now, it is not new news that the state budget deficit is an estimated \$3.7 billion. But what does this overwhelming number mean on a more personal basis? How will proposed cuts affect our students? During this session at the General Assembly, NCPTA endeavors to bring you objective information on what's going on at the state legislature. NCPTA is here for you, and represents you, the parents and the caregivers throughout North Carolina.

In addition to a proposed significant cut to the K-12 budget, perhaps to the tune of 5% to 15% which could result in the loss of thousands of teachers and support staff across North Carolina, here are a few bills impacting education that have already been introduced.

- HB 51 Fund the NCPTA Parent Involvement Initiative (Primary Sponsors: Rep. Glazier and Rep. Lucas)
- SB 8 Removes the cap on charter schools (Primary Sponsor Sen. Stevens)
- HB 41 Provides tax credits for parents who move their children to private school (Primary Sponsors Rep. Stam, Rep. Hager, Rep. Collins, and Rep. Brawley)
- BB 11 Prohibits illegal aliens from attending post secondary schools (Primary Sponsor: Rep. Cleveland)
- HB 48 Provides that the only standardized tests required are those required by federal law (Primary Sponsors: Rep. Holloway, Rep. Blackwell, Rep. Hilton, and Rep. Cotham)

If you are interested in voicing your concerns or support for some of these items, please consider contacting your state representative and senator. Speak with other parents, your teachers, principal, and superintendent about what action is being taken. Invite your state representative and senator to your child's school to learn more about how the potential changes will impact your child's classroom.

NCPTA endeavors to provide you with information and status updates on K-12 education at the North Carolina General Assembly. If you have any questions or input as to how we can better provide you with relevant and important information, please contact us at office@ncpta.org. Also, if you want assistance with determining who represents you at the General Assembly, visit the official website at www.ncleg.net or via Capwiz found on the NCPTA website (click under "Child Advocacy" and then click "Take Action.")



Join us for a "Visit the Legislature Day"

The NC Association of School Administrators has asked the members of NCPTA and other education advocates to join with them on March 31st, at 10:30am in Raleigh, to let our elected officials in NC hear from us about the education budget.

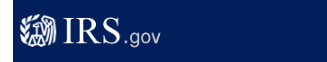
We want all of our legislators to know we want the budget to reflect a commitment to "Fund Schools First". Please talk with your local school administrators, principals, etc. and plan to join them in Raleigh for a visit to the Legislature.

You may find more information at www.ncasa.net. Please let NCPTA know if you are planning to attend by sending an email to office@ncpta.org. Thank you for standing up for our students and schools in NC.

Come join us...

❖ March 18th: IRS compliance workshop for non-profits at the Wilmington Hilton Riverside

- Presented by a representative from the Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division
- 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Cost: \$10.00 per person (includes registration, workshop materials and lunch)
- Space is limited to the first 50 registrants.
- Registration begins February 21 at www.ncpta.org



❖ March 19th: Annual NCPTA Emerging Leaders Conference at the Wilmington Hilton Riverside

The Emerging Leaders Conference is designed to respond to the growing diversity in our public schools and communities, and to help PTA serve all children and families. Participants in the conference will strengthen their leadership skills and engage in significant networking opportunities.

- 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Cost \$10.00 per person (includes registration, workshop materials and lunch)
- Registration begins February 21 at www.ncpta.org

❖ May 14th: Annual NCPTA Parent Education Conference, Holiday Inn I95, Fayetteville

Conference Packages & Fees

Conference Package – by April 29, 2011	
Includes registration, materials and meals	\$90
On-site Registration – after April 29, 2011	\$125
Non-PTA members:	
Conference Packet	\$100
Guests meals:	
Saturday Luncheon	\$25

Registration will begin by March 1st at www.ncpta.org.

HOTEL INFORMATION — Please ask for the NCPTA Convention room block
Holiday Inn I95, 1944 Cedar Creek Road, Fayetteville, NC 28312
910-323-1600

Convention Room Rate — **\$92.00 per night**, single or double (plus applicable tax) .
Rooms must be reserved by **April 14, 2011** in order to receive the Convention rate.

❖ May 15th: NCPTA Reflections Celebration, Holiday Inn I95, Fayetteville



Mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

News from National PTA ...

Membership Goal for 2011: Focus on Increase & Retention

After November's slight membership increase, the membership numbers for National PTA® were down 2.3% in December compared with last year, while unit numbers slightly increased by 0.9%. The 2.3% loss translates to approximately 98,000 members. With units increasing by 0.9% over last December, there is the potential to increase National PTA membership in 2011.

All levels of PTA® need to embrace the challenge of increasing membership in 2011. We can achieve membership success by focusing on retention and increasing units coupled with growing membership at all existing PTA local units. PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for ALL children. We achieve that goal best by constantly creating strength with increasing member numbers.

For additional membership marketing ideas, please visit www.pta.org.

Register Today for the National PTA Legislative Conference

Registration is currently underway for the 2011 National Legislative Conference. The conference will be held March 9–10, 2011 in the Washington DC area. Through skill-building sessions, panel discussions, workshops, guest speakers and visits with congressional leaders on Capitol Hill, the two-day conference will inspire and provide in-depth analysis. Join your fellow PTA child advocates and make your voice heard.

"It is vitally important for advocates to attend the Federal Legislative Conference with the National PTA. This conference was so powerful; seeing parents, students, and community leaders advocating for issues that affect the lives of so many people and communities across the country. Our voices and advocacy make a difference for hundreds of thousands of students in every community, neighborhood, city, and state." — Sonja Currie, Tennessee Federal Legislative Chair

For more information, please visit http://www.pta.org/national_legislative_conference.asp.

PTA Take Your Family to School Week® Grant Recipients Selected

National PTA congratulates this year's PTA Take Your Family to School Week® grant recipients. The 32 PTAs, representing 18 states and Puerto Rico, each won a grant of \$1,897, an amount that recognizes National PTA's founding year.

During February 13–19, 2011, PTAs nationwide will be welcoming families into their schools for PTA Take Your Family to School Week. This special week helps PTAs build stronger partnerships with families and bring focus to the impact family engagement can have on student achievement. Congratulations to the following two PTAs in North Carolina for being a recipient:

- **Barnette Elementary PTA (Huntersville)**
- **Southeast Raleigh High PTSA (Raleigh)**

These grants are generously funded by PTA's Proud National Sponsor AXS Foundation, which offers free seminars on paying for college and other financial issues facing families.

Save the Date and Plan to Attend Now!



June 9-12, 2011

Visit

www.pta.org/annualconvention

MADD's Power of Parents Initiative



In response to scientific evidence that parental influence can reduce underage drinking, MADD began a parent initiative: Power of Parents, It's Your Influence®. The parent initiative includes two components:

1. An interactive Parent Website (www.madd.org/powerofparents): the site was launched in 2009 and contains information on underage drinking prevention that is based on peer-reviewed research. Parents can find tips to help keep their teens and community safe and have the opportunity to submit questions to research experts in the alcohol prevention field.
2. Community-Based Program (Parent Handbook): MADD has partnered with Dr. Turrisi and adapted his handbook model to reach parents of high school students. The parent handbook will be available free to communities through the website and through 30-minute parent workshops facilitated by trained MADD staff and volunteers.

The goals of MADD's parent initiative are to:

1. Influence parenting behavior to prevent underage drinking
2. Maintain the 21 minimum drinking age law in all 50 states
3. Engage new supporters to carry on MADD's life-saving work

The Parent Handbook was reviewed by parent focus groups and is supported by National PTA. Community support and partnership is vital to reaching as many parents as possible in order to collectively prevent underage drinking in our community. Consider the ways in which your time, resources, and ideas will double our efforts in this fight to save lives. Methods for partnering with MADD in the Power of Parent's, It's Your Influence® parent initiative include but are not limited to:

1. Provide the facilities for a 30-minute parent workshop with adequate seating for 20-30 adults
2. Promote and advertise a parent workshop(s) to your community or school
3. Provide refreshments, door prizes, or a donation for a workshop and the parent program at your school

Contact Craig Lloyd, Mothers Against Drunk Driving State Executive Director at craig.lloyd@madd.org or 800 248-6233 for more details.

Apply for NCPTA Awards by March 1!

The Awards Program of North Carolina PTA provides us with the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the exemplary efforts of PTA/PTSA units, councils, and individuals throughout our state. Your participation in our Awards Program will give us the opportunity to share your outstanding accomplishments with other PTAs during our annual Spring Parent Education Conference.

You must now apply online for all of NCPTA's awards. Please refer to the Awards section on our website (www.ncpta.org) for the numerous ways to honor an outstanding teacher, principal, school administrator, volunteer, or your PTA. We encourage



you to take advantage of this opportunity to say "thank you" to deserving people who have contributed greatly in improving the lives of children and youth. **The deadline for applying for State Awards is March 1st.**

Only PTA units/councils in good standing (current state approved bylaws, audit report submitted online to the State Office by August 31, membership dues paid, and members entered into the NCPTA Database) are eligible to apply.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the State PTA Office by e-mail at office@ncpta.org or visit www.ncpta.org.



July 1, 2011 is the deadline to Adopt the New Uniform Bylaws for Local Units

On June 25, 2010, the NCPTA Board of Directors approved Uniform PTA Bylaws for local PTAs. The Bylaws Committee had feedback sessions with local and council leaders during the past two years and NCPTA listened to you, our PTA leaders. We spent many hours working to make your bylaws less complicated, more user friendly, and easier to understand while providing you guidance in complying with IRS regulations and NC non-profit law. Once your PTA adopts these new Uniform Bylaws, you will not have to renew them ever again!

Below are some of the exciting changes that will make your PTA governance easier and allow you to do the real work of PTA—Advocating for All Children:

- An easy to read format including a table of contents
- No more renewals, meets a good standing requirement
- Officers and Board of Directors
- Establishing annual membership dues
- New meeting option
- Standing Committees (i.e., Audit, Nominating and Advocacy)
- Financial Management

We want the transition to the new Uniform Bylaws to be as easy as possible. **All local PTA units will be adopting and using the new Uniform Bylaws by July 1, 2011. Please plan to have your PTA adopt these bylaws on or before July 1, 2011.**

Follow the procedure below for the adoption process:

- Give notice of the adoption meeting to the general membership at least 10 days in advance.
- A quorum having been established, adopt by affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at the general membership meeting
- Once adopted, the PTA president must sign the uniform bylaws for the official PTA record. The original copy of the bylaws should be kept in a safe place.
- Login to the NCPTA database at <https://www.ncpta.org/db> as you would to enter members or complete the online Financial Review. Select the “Bylaws” button and fill in the date your bylaws were adopted. You must also enter your name and PTA position. Remember to click “Save”. The adoption date cannot be changed after you click the “Save” button. This step must be completed in order to remain a unit in good standing with NCPTA.

If you have any questions, please contact the NCPTA office at office@ncpta.org.

Comment on Proposed School Lunch and Breakfast Nutrition Requirements Deadline: April 13, 2011

On Thursday, January 13, 2011, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) proposed a rule to revise the meal patterns and nutrition requirements for the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program via notice in the Federal Register (<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/regulations/2011-01-13.pdf>.) The proposed changes are based on recommendations from the National Academies' Institute of Medicine, and would increase the availability of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk products. Additionally, the proposed changes

reduce the levels of sodium and saturated fats found in school meals.

National PTA urges state and local PTAs to submit comments on the proposed rule for consideration to the USDA. All comments must be submitted on or before **April 13, 2011**.

To submit comments, visit the Federal eRulemaking Portal (<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FNS-2007-0038-0001>) and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

The 15 Most Effective Strategies to Increase the High School Graduation Rate

The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network has identified 15 effective strategies that have the most positive impact on the dropout rate. These strategies have been implemented successfully at all education levels and environments throughout the nation. A full discussion of the strategies and family engagement is found in Smink & Schargel's *Helping Students Graduate* [tinyurl.com/322rbj5].

School and Community Perspective

Systemic Renewal

Systemic renewal is the continuing process of assessing goals and objectives related to K–12 school policies, programs, practices, and organizational structures as they impact a diverse group of learners.

School-Community Collaboration

When all groups in a community provide collective support to the school, a strong infrastructure sustains a caring, supportive environment where youth can thrive and achieve.

Safe Learning Environments

A comprehensive violence prevention plan, including conflict resolution, must deal with potential violence as well as crisis management. A safe learning environment provides daily experiences, at all grade levels, which enhance positive social attitudes and effective interpersonal skills in all students.

Early Interventions

Family Engagement

Research consistently finds that family engagement has a direct, positive effect on children's achievement and is a valid accurate predictor of a student's success in school.

Early Childhood Education

Birth-to-five interventions demonstrate that providing a child additional enrichment can enhance brain development. The most effective way to reduce the number of children who will ultimately drop out is to provide the best possible classroom instruction from the beginning of their school experience through the primary grades.

Early Literacy Development

Early interventions through the third grade help low-achieving students improve their reading and writing skills, establishing the necessary foundation for effective learning in all other subjects.

Basic Core Strategies

Mentoring/Tutoring

Mentoring is a one-to-one caring, supportive relationship between a mentor and a mentee that is based on trust. Tutoring, also a one-to-one activity focuses on academics and is an effective practice when addressing specific needs such as reading, writing, or math competencies.

Service-Learning

Service-learning connects meaningful community service experiences with academic learning. This teaching/learning method promotes personal and social



growth, career development, and civic responsibility and can be a powerful vehicle for effective school reform at all grade levels.

Alternative Schooling

Alternative schooling provides struggling students with a variety of options that can lead to graduation. Effective programs place special attention to the student's individual social needs and academic requirements for a high school diploma.

After-School Opportunities

Many schools provide after-school, weekend, and summer enhancement programs that eliminate information loss and inspire interest in a variety of areas. Such experiences are especially important for students at risk of school failure because they fill the afternoon "gap time" with constructive and engaging activities.

Making the Most of Instruction

Professional Development

Teachers and counselors who work with youth at high risk of academic failure need additional support to develop skills, techniques, and other innovative strategies.

Active Learning

Active learning embraces strategies that engage and involve students in the learning process. Students find new and creative ways to solve problems, achieve success, and become lifelong learners when educators show them that there are different ways to learn.

Educational Technology

Technology offers some of the best opportunities for delivering instruction to engage students in authentic learning, addressing multiple intelligences, and adapting to students' learning styles.

Individualized Instruction

Each student has unique interests and different learning experiences. A differentiated instructional program and learning plan for each student allows for flexibility in program direction, teaching methods, and motivational strategies.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

A quality CTE program and a related guidance program are essential for all students. School-to-work programs recognize that youth need specific skills to prepare them for postsecondary education or to meet the demands of today's workplace.

From NPTA's *Our Children*, Dec. 10-Jan. 11

Take Action.....

On January 21, 2011, the NCPTA Board of Directors voted unanimously to support of the Statement of Principles to Raise the Age of Youth Accused of Minor Offenses in North Carolina sponsored by Action for Children North Carolina. Please review this information and encourage your elected officials to support this important legislation.



Statement of Principles

WHEREAS:

1. Children are North Carolina's most vital and valuable resource and investing in each of them is investing in our collective future; and
2. An adolescent mistake should not determine a child's outcome in life; and
3. Research should inform policy and practices; and
4. Current brain research demonstrates that adolescence is a developmental phase and youth do not have adults' ability to make informed choices and plan for the long-term; and
5. Because of their still-developing brains, adolescents need guidance through the transition from childhood to adulthood; and
6. Community institutions like schools, the faith community and child and family-serving agencies should provide supports and guidance to parents; and
7. The adult criminal justice system is not structured to handle the developmental, educational or social needs of children; and
8. The juvenile justice system provides the developmentally-appropriate programs, services and punishments that can help parents nurture and guide young people as they grow into productive adult citizens; then

We believe North Carolina's policy-makers, communities, advocates and government systems should work to:

- I. Keep children and youth out of the criminal justice system whenever possible by addressing their needs and those of their families early and effectively through prevention and intervention.
- II. Continue to build a juvenile justice system that offers age-appropriate treatment and services, therapy, education, job skills training and punishment and further enhance the system to support and promote evidence-based programs.
- III. Ensure that all youth under age 18 charged with a crime start in the juvenile justice system, are treated in an age-appropriate manner and are provided with developmentally appropriate, evidenced-based services and supports. Ensure that sanctions, when needed, are appropriate to a youth's developmental stage.

State Organizational Supporters

Action for Children North Carolina
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)-North Carolina
Carolina Justice Policy Center
Children and Family Services Association-NC (Benchmarks)
Children's Home Society of North Carolina
Communities In Schools of North Carolina
Covenant with North Carolina's Children
Disability Rights North Carolina
El Pueblo, Inc.
Leadership CONNECTIONS, Inc.
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) – North Carolina
North Carolina Advocates for Justice

North Carolina Council of Churches
North Carolina Families United, National Federation of Families, Inc.
North Carolina Justice Center
North Carolina PTA
North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. (Smart Start)
North Carolina Pediatrics Society
North Carolina School Community Health Alliance
North Carolina Social Justice Project, Inc.
Office of the Juvenile Defender
Public School Forum of North Carolina
SaySo, Inc. (Strong Able Youth Speaking Out)
United Way of North Carolina



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North Carolina PTA Night

To benefit the Family Involvement Programs



Carolina Hurricanes vs. Columbus Blue Jackets
Saturday, March 12, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.



The North Carolina PTA has teamed up with the Carolina Hurricanes to bring you a special ticket opportunity! Save almost **40%** on tickets for the Saturday, March 12th Hurricanes vs. Blue Jackets game and support the NCPTA. A portion of every ticket purchased will benefit the NCPTA Family Involvement Programs. There is a 5PM pre game Lawn Party with music, food and fun so bring family & friends.

To purchase tickets through this special opportunity visit:

www.carolinahurricanes.com/pta

Tickets can easily be purchased and printed via the comfort of your home/office computer by visiting the link above

North Carolina PTA Night Pricing			
Seat Location	Gate Price	Your Price	Donation Back
Lower Level North	\$80	\$50	\$10
Lower Level South	\$80	\$50	\$10
Balcony Premier	\$45	\$27.50	\$5
Upper Corners North	\$30	\$19	\$4

North Carolina
PTA[®]

everychild.one voice.

one million hours of POWER

→ *Give a little...change a lot*

You've got a winning team—that's you and the important children in your life. Whether you are a father or male role model, your involvement is powerful and produces positive educational, social and physical benefits for your child.

National PTA® has a winning team, too. National PTA, the National Fatherhood Leaders Group and members of PTA MORE™ (Men Organized to Raise Engagement) are on a mission to get men around the country to get in the game and help ensure more positive outcomes for children. Fathers, grandfathers, uncles, mentors and other caring men are encouraged to join the team.



The Playbook: 350,000 men each volunteer three hours of service to produce more than one million hours of volunteer service to America's children during the 2010-2011 school year. The children they serve may be their own or those of their extended family and community.

America urgently needs men to be involved to help keep kids in school, away from danger, and on a path toward high achievement.

Want to know how powerful you are? Research says when fathers and significant males are involved in the lives of children; academic performance and social behavior improve. Consider this:

✗ Youths are more at risk of first substance use without a highly-involved father or significant male role model.

- ✗ Children without highly-engaged dads or a significant male presence are twice as likely to drop out of school.
- ✗ Father involvement in schools is associated with the higher likelihood of a student getting mostly A's.

350,000 men + three volunteer hours = **ONE MILLION HOURS OF POWER!**



Use your power to help change the health, education, and well-being of the nation's youth:

- ✗ Volunteer at a school event and in the classroom
- ✗ Join the Million Father March and take your child to school on the first day
- ✗ Read to kids, exercise with kids or help kids with homework
- ✗ Mentor or coach local children, individually or in groups with other men
- ✗ Join local law enforcement community policing efforts around local schools and communities
- ✗ Participate in a PTA MORE™ Alliance program or project
- ✗ Attend PTA and parent-teacher meetings
- ✗ Write encouraging letters to your children and the children of your community regarding the importance of education



one million hours

Real Men Volunteer



You can help children everywhere reach their fullest potential with just three hours of your time over the course of a school year. Children need to see your strong presence and know that you want to be involved in their lives. Volunteer a *little* time today and see a BIG change in your community. Here are a few ways you can use your power to help change the health, education and well-being of the nation's youth:

Tips to be a Great Volunteer

1. Ask a teacher if they need help with an upcoming project.
2. Create a meal with a child.
3. Build a network with other men volunteering.
4. Offer to bring supplies or pre-approved refreshments to a child's event.
5. Chaperone special events and outings.
6. Volunteer as a family.
7. Engage in any activity that supports positive outcomes for children.

To help generate more than a million hours of power, simply go to **PTA.org/millionhours** to register your commitment or the commitment of your family members and friends. Log in your activity and time after completion. It's that simple!

You can also find out dates and locations of related events and programs.

Million Hours of Power is a PTA® MORESM initiative, along with the National Fatherhood Leaders Group. PTA MORE, which stands for Men Organized to Raise Engagement, is a coalition of organizations working together to ensure greater father and male involvement in programs that support safety, health, and academic and social development of all children. Members include All Pro Dad, WATCH D.O.G.S., Real Men Cook, National Fatherhood Initiative, Black Star Project, Strong Fathers–Strong Families, National Partnership for Community Leadership, and National Compadres Network.

National
PTA®

everychild.onevoice.®

info@pta.org
(800) 307-4PTA (4782)



PTA.org



NPTA Healthy Lifestyles Grant Recipient



PTA Healthy Lifestyles

Congratulations to **Myers Park Traditional School PTA, Charlotte** for being one of 45 PTAs nationally to receive the Healthy Lifestyles Grant from National PTA. PTAs receive grants of up to \$1,000 to conduct activities that promote good nutrition and physical activity to address the nation's growing childhood obesity epidemic.

Through the PTA Healthy Lifestyles Grant Program, PTAs across the country are working to increase access to and awareness of healthy foods, increase physical activity for students and families, provide healthier food in schools, and engage family members in promoting physical activity and healthy eating habits.

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www.ncpta.org

President: Kyle R. Robertson

WOW!!!!!! LOOK WHAT'S LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY & MARCH

February

- Black History Month
- 6-12 — PTA Take Your Family to School Week (www.pta.org/familytoschool)
- 17 — Founders Day (National PTA's 114th Birthday)
- 21 — President's Day

March

- **1 – State Awards deadline**
- Women's History Month <http://www.nwhp.org/>
- Music in Our Schools Month <http://menc.org/events/view/music-in-our-schools-month>
- 2 – Read Across America (www.nea.org/readacross)
- 12 – NCPTA Night at the Carolina Hurricanes Game (www.carolinahurricanes.com/pta)
- 13 – Daylight savings time begins
- **15 – Membership deadline to qualify for NCPTA Membership Awards**
- **19 – NCPTA Emerging Leaders Conference, Wilmington**
- 26 – NCPTA Family Night at the Charlotte Bobcats Basketball Game (<http://www.nba.com/bobcats/>)