

## **NORTH CAROLINA PTA**

### **ADVOCACY PRIORITIES**

*The bylaws of the national PTA and the North Carolina PTA both provide that a core purpose of PTA is “To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.”*

*In keeping with that part of the NC PTA mission, and in support of the existing and long-standing policies of NC PTA, the following “Advocacy Priorities” will guide the work of NC PTA during the 2006-2007 school year and thereafter until modified by the board of directors or membership:*

#### **SCHOOL FUNDING**

In North Carolina, the state government is required by law to make sure that every school system has sufficient funds to provide every child with the opportunity for a sound basic education as defined by the North Carolina Supreme Court and the laws of the state. Local governments also provide funds, but the state is required to make sure the total amount of funding is adequate.

NC PTA will encourage and support initiatives at all levels of government --- local, state and federal -- - to assure that every school system has sufficient funding to provide every child with an opportunity for a sound basic education. That includes sufficient funding for qualified and certified teachers in all classrooms, and skilled administrators in all schools.

Specific initiatives that NC PTA will support include, but are not limited to:

- Adequate operational funding for all schools;
- Adequate capital funding for all schools, including statewide assistance, in the form of bond issues or other programs, to help fund local capital needs;
- Initiatives that will provide qualified and certified teachers for every classroom, and skilled administrators for every school;
- Full funding of the Disadvantaged Students Supplemental Fund;
- Exemption of public schools from the state sales tax;
- Adequate federal funding to support the requirements of the “No Child Left Behind” program;
- Maintenance and full funding of the Low Wealth Supplemental Fund.

#### **TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS**

NC PTA recognizes that the success of every school depends on the teachers and administrators in that school, supported by active and caring parents.

NC PTA will support initiatives that:

- Compensate teachers adequately to reward their important work, to encourage them to stay in the profession, and to attract sufficient numbers of additional teachers to the profession to assure a qualified and certified teacher in every classroom;
- Increase the supply of qualified and certified teachers through lateral entry programs, expanded university training programs, out-of-state recruiting, and otherwise.
- Support and expand mentor programs to help new teachers;
- Provide adequate professional development for all teachers throughout their careers;
- Assure that every school is led by a trained and effective team of administrators.

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

Good schools require parental support and involvement. Parents can and should be active participants in the education of their children. Teachers and administrators can be most effective when they have such support.

As an integral part of its advocacy mission, NC PTA will work to increase meaningful parental involvement in our public schools. To further this goal, NC PTA will:

- Encourage parents to become more involved in the education of their children and in the work of their children's schools;
- Encourage teachers and administrators to seek and facilitate parental involvement;
- Encourage public officials, through legislation and otherwise, to support and facilitate increased parental involvement in public schools.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

NC PTA recognizes that public education is the largest and most costly governmental activity in our state. NC PTA believes that well-designed and well-administered accountability programs are essential:

- To assure that public education funds are spent wisely and effectively;
- To assure that children are actually learning;
- To encourage continued and increased public support for our schools;
- To assure steady progress in closing the achievement gap; and
- To assure that all children are taught essential 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills.

NC PTA will support such accountability programs and, as necessary, efforts to improve such programs.

## **HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

The education of children depends, to a great degree, on their overall health. Our public schools must help children learn the value of balanced nutrition, sensible exercise and good overall health. NC PTA will support public policies at all levels of government, and school programs, that help to maintain the health and wellness of all children.