



*everychild.one voice.*

To: **Local Unit Presidents**  
From: Sarah Gross, Chairman, Legislation Committee  
Subject: Proposed Legislation Program for 2015  
Date: July 24, 2014

The attached is the Virginia PTA Proposed Legislation Program (PLP) for 2015. The Board of Managers has received public comment and incorporated any approved changes into the language of this PLP.

This is the crucial time for development of our advocacy program for 2015. As President of your unit, it is of the utmost importance that you assist in the following:

- 1. circulate the attached program on paper, on your website or in any other member communication**
- 2. conduct a vote on these items so that EVERY member has an opportunity to be heard**
- 3. return the results of the vote to your District Director by October 31st**

If approved by our members, the issues below will become part of our 2015 Legislative Priorities. I cannot stress to you enough how important it is that the Virginia PTA effectively represent its members. We can only do that by educating members on important issues facing our students, teachers and schools and holding a fair and accurate vote.

Some of these issues may raise questions or concerns. Please encourage your members to contact me or their District Directors to have these questions answered. We are here to help.

Historically, the return on our PLP vote has been low - and we would like to change that. To assist you in your vote gathering, we have included a "Tips for Getting Out the Vote" flyer as well as a ballot. You do NOT need to use this ballot. You may choose to conduct an online poll as long as the count is accurate or design your own ballot.

Getting your members educated and involved in the important advocacy process serves to strengthen the PTA as an organization and is another benefit of membership.

Please join us at the General Assembly on January 26, 2015 when we advocate for our organization. PTA Day is our "Lobby Day" and offers you an opportunity to meet with your state Senators and Delegates and be heard on important issues facing your school and PTA. Additional information about PTA Day 2015 is enclosed in this mailing.

If you have any questions or would like more information or to get more involved, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to a robust and educational PLP process for 2015.

Sincerely,

Sarah Gross  
Chair, Legislation/Education Committee  
Virginia PTA  
804-852-3374



## 2015 Proposed Legislation Program LETTER FOR MEMBERS

To: Virginia PTA members  
From: Sarah Gross, Chair Legislation/Education Committee  
Date: July 24, 2014

The following are TWO items recommended to you for consideration. In the early fall, you will be asked to VOTE on these items as part of the 2015 Proposed Legislation Program (PLP). If you have any questions about these items, the rationale or history, please do not hesitate to contact the committee at [legislation@vapta.org](mailto:legislation@vapta.org). Please familiarize yourself with the issues below and be prepared to cast a vote so that your state Legislation committee is effectively advocating on your behalf.

**LEGISLATION ACTION ITEMS (LAI):** Requests for the introduction, passage, or defeat of specific legislation by the General Assembly and/or regulations by the Virginia Board of Education or other appropriate agencies.

**POLICY/POSITION STATEMENTS (PS):** Statements of Virginia PTA on general issues and may be used as the basis for addressing issues before the General Assembly, Virginia Board of Education or other appropriate agencies.

### **LEGISLATIVE ACTION ITEM #1:**

**Virginia PTA supports legislation that improves access and availability of quality mental health services for Virginia's troubled youth.**

#### **Rationale:**

Continued tragic, violent events in our schools have evidenced the need for quality mental health services for troubled youth and their families. Virginia PTA supports legislation aimed at improving not only the quality of these services but also availability. Families and youth across the Commonwealth need access to necessary services during crises as well as counseling as situations require.

### **POSITION STATEMENT #2:**

**Virginia PTA supports local revenue increases so long as at least 50% of the additional revenue is allocated to local Pre-K through 12 public education.**

#### **Rationale:**

After years of state and local budget cuts, many localities continue to face revenue shortfalls often times because of the state's shifting of costs to the localities. Recently we have seen an increase in the number of localities in Virginia that are pursuing local revenue increases to cover the additional costs with which they are now burdened. This proposed position is in line with two already existing member-adopted positions but further clarifies the advocacy efforts local PTAs may employ to pursue these additional revenues. As always, PTAs are encouraged to monitor local budgets closely to ensure that at least 50% of the increased revenue is allocated to public education. PTAs should work closely with local school boards and governing bodies (Boards of Supervisors, City Councils, etc.) to ensure that a local, quality education program is fully funded.