



*everychild.one voice.*®

the **VOICE**

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## ***President's Message,***

All our schools are officially Back To School! I know you guys are all waist deep in paper and information so we will keep this message short and sweet.

1. As the oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy association, it is imperative that we keep our legislative positions current and relevant. To that end, we send new possible positions out for YOUR VOTE in the fall. We call this the Proposed Legislation Program (PLP). You should have received all your documents and instructions for how to conduct the vote back in our big fall mailer. BUT if you need more information, please [click here](#)...
2. Please read on below about three exciting designations: Arts in Education Week, Hispanic Heritage Month and PTA's Back To School
3. September always means the start of our Reflections season! If you don't have a Reflections program at your school, if you need the most current forms, if you want your questions answers, link and information are listed below. This is a great way to start celebrating National Arts in Education Week!
4. Remember to send in your officer update form so we can make sure we reach you! It can be found on the lower left corner of our website and it's one of our requirements for good standing.
5. The National PTA membership database continues to grow and develop. For the most current information, check our website at [www.vapta.org](http://www.vapta.org)
6. MEMBERSHIP MATTERS! Our voice grows stronger with a growing membership. If you have great membership ideas, please post them on our Facebook page and we may recognize your efforts at one our trainings!

I'm going to leave it there - but please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [president@vapta.org](mailto:president@vapta.org) or on our Facebook page!

Best of luck to all of you and your students and happy Back To School!!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah".

Sarah

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## **Proposed Legislation Program - VOTE NOW!**

We launched the 2019 Proposed Legislation Program vote in August and mailed all the info you need in the big BTS mailing. Virginia PTA is asking all our members to vote on 4 possible new position statements on the following topics - resources for mental health supports in our schools, implementing and funding school safety measures and the effective use of Threat Assessment Teams, effective integration of career and technical education, recruiting and retaining effective educators. For a letter detailing how to conduct a vote, additional information including full verbiage of each position and tips for getting out the vote, [click here](#).

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## **It's BYLAWS Time!**

Each PTA unit, our councils, districts and the state are governed by a set of rules known as the bylaws. In fact, everything you need to know about who is on your executive committee, how many meetings you need to have and when your fiscal year ends is in your bylaws.

Once a year, we review all these bylaws in order to make changes and amendments to the bylaws templates. If you would like to recommend a change to the bylaws templates ([www.vapta.org/members-only/bylaws](http://www.vapta.org/members-only/bylaws)), please submit them to [bylaws@vapta.org](mailto:bylaws@vapta.org) by **September 14**. More information can be found at [www.vapta.org](http://www.vapta.org).

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## **Resolutions - A Powerful Part of Our Legislation Program**

PTA is the oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy association in the country. Our mission is to engage families and communities to advocate for every child's potential. One of the ways we do that is through a robust and relevant library of legislative positions and resolutions.

If you have an issue that you would like to have the voting members of Virginia PTA consider, you can do that by writing a resolution. For more [information](#) about how to write a resolution, formats, deadlines and instructions, please go to [www.vapta.org/advocacy/resolutions](http://www.vapta.org/advocacy/resolutions).

**ALL RESOLUTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 6, 2018. PLEASE SUBMIT RESOLUTIONS TO [resolutions@vapta.org](mailto:resolutions@vapta.org).**

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## ***Membership Database News and Updates***

The year has started off great and it is exciting to see so many of PTAs using the database with great success! Over 4,750 members from Virginia have joined online and more are being uploaded by local leaders daily.

Those of you using the database likely know that we sent a manual out to you. As a reminder, National is regularly updating the manual based on your feedback, so be sure to go to [National PTA Membership Database Page](#) for the most up-to-date version.

As a way to improve service to our PTAs, we are starting to copy District Directors and Council Presidents on some of the email communications with units regarding the database. The intent is let the local leader know that there is a team supporting them- and to help the District and Council leaders understand when a unit is having trouble and/or making great strides!

Last year, National attempted to send membership cards out. This was not successful and they have discontinued that effort. Please reach out to [info@vapta.org](mailto:info@vapta.org) with your PTA name and you will receive a template for printing your membership cards via email in return. Or, a member can log on to their National PTA account and get their card electronically.

### ***Database Tips***

- **Spreadsheet**
  - Make sure you are using the new template for this year.
  - Leave membership\_name column blank.
  - When entering the number of members, please be sure that there is a membership option with that same number in your dues structure.
  - Remember that you do not need to include the 0s at the start of your unit number if applicable.
  - The only columns in red are required however we strongly recommend that you submit email addresses, too.
  - If you have family members that use the same email address, please only enter that email address on one member.
- **Reports**
  - Your remittance from National is for online joins and donations.
  - When reconciling your online joins and donations, be careful to enter the dates for the week prior to the transmittal date- the week runs Monday – Sunday.
- **Dues**
  - The deadline for your first dues payment November 1st.
  - Include the Unpaid Member Invoice (link found on details page).

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## **National Arts in Education Week**

Students of all ages benefit from artistic learning, innovative thinking, and creativity. We celebrate National Arts in Education Week, September 9-15, as a way to recognize the impact and importance of the arts! Using the #BecauseofArtsInEd hashtag, tell the story of the impact of the transformative power of the arts in education in your schools! For more information, check out this [website](#).

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### **Reflections is On!**

Membership in the Virginia PTA provides the opportunity to participate in the National PTA Reflections program. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the program! Reflections encourages students to explore the arts and express themselves by giving positive recognition for their artistic efforts. Reflections Awards Program Students in Pre-K through grade 12 create theme-based artwork in dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography or visual arts.

Check out our [website](#) for the forms, this year's theme and all the information you need!

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## Is Your School a School of Excellence?

By enrolling in this program, your PTA and school administrators are making a year-long commitment in identifying and implementing an action plan for school improvement based on PTA's National Standards for School-Parent Partnerships. For more information and to enroll in the program go to National PTA [School of Excellence](#)

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## Every Child In Focus: September is National Hispanic Heritage Month

How Your PTA Can Better Support Hispanic Families

- Join us in the conversation on [Twitter](#) and use the [hashtag #EveryChild](#).
- Read our [PTA One Voice](#) Blog for PTA Success Stories and additional resources. You can also share your blog! We want to hear local and state PTA success stories on supporting student success through diversity and inclusion. Use our [blog share tool](#) to tell us your story.
- Share the [Parents' Guides to Student Success](#) in Spanish. These standards provide clear, consistent expectations for what students should be learning at each grade in order to be prepared for college and career.
- Find inspiration with [Bright Spots: The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics](#).

### Every Child in Focus Leadership Series: Hispanic Student

National PTA, Hispanic Heritage Foundation and Univision joined together to [host online events](#) that are now available for viewing on YouTube.

### About Hispanic Children and Families

View our weekly infographics for a visual snapshot of Hispanic children and families: [Hispanic Heritage 101](#), [The Faces of U.S. Public School Classrooms](#), [4 Facts About Hispanic Children in America's Public Schools](#).

Looking for ways to engage Hispanic families? Visit National PTA's [website](#).

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## Senate and House Page Programs - Apply Now!

Do you know a student who will be between the ages of 13 and 14 in January who has an interest in state government? They should apply to serve as a Senate or House Page!

The application process for the 2019 Senate Page and House Page programs is now open. The application deadline is **Friday, October 19th at 5 pm** for the Senate program and **Monday, October 22nd at 5 pm** for the House program.

To learn more about this incredible opportunity, click [here](#).

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Virginia PTA Nominations Committee is seeking individuals for officers for the elected term 2019-2021.

Officer positions include:

- President-Elect (requires one term of Board service)
- VP of Advocacy
- VP of Programs
- VP of Training
- Secretary
- Treasurer

On-line nominations packets are due by October 5, 2018 at 11:59pm. More info is available at <https://www.vapta.org/nldc-pta-nomination-form>.

Not ready to jump in with both feet but want to get a foot in the door then apply to be a member-at-large (MAL). Learn more about our committees at <https://www.vapta.org/>. Please email [nominations@vapta.org](mailto:nominations@vapta.org) with any questions.

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## National PTA Back-to-School Week

Back-to-school is practically a holiday for PTAs around the country—and this year we're celebrating in a BIG way! Mark your calendars because we've designated Sept. 17-21 as [National PTA Back-to-School Week](#).

Each day of the week we will highlight and share tips and resources for the amazing people who support our children's learning and success. And we're excited to announce that we've teamed up with Office Depot to make all of this



happen!

- Monday, September 17 – PTA Leaders
- Tuesday, September 18 – Parents
- Wednesday, September 19 – Students
- Thursday, September 20 – Teachers
- Friday, September 21 – Office Depot Day

Back-to-School Week will feature a comprehensive webpage with a wide variety of resources, announcements on grant recipients and new grant opportunities, classroom surprises—and so much more!

Be sure to visit [PTA.org](http://PTA.org) and use and follow [#PTABacktoSchool](https://twitter.com/PTABacktoSchool) as we rev up plans and promotions. I've also attached three "Save the Date" [graphics](#) you can use on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to help spread the word.

We want you to celebrate with us! Together, we can make the 2018 National PTA Back-to-School Week and 2018-2019 school year a huge success for PTA leaders, parents, teachers and students. Enjoy the rest of your summer and get ready for an exciting back-to-school season.

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Visit our Website

Virginia PTA | (804) 264-1234 | (804) 264-4014 | [info@vapta.org](mailto:info@vapta.org) | [www.vapta.org](http://www.vapta.org)

STAY CONNECTED

