



everychild.onevoice.®

2010 Virginia PTA Legislative Priorities

VA PTA Supports:

1. Fully funding K-12 Public Education

- a. VA PTA supports full funding of all mandated education programs at the maximum level required to deliver a quality education to all public school students in the Commonwealth.
- b. VA PTA supports enforcement of the General Assembly's statutory requirement for the funding of public education (currently 55%).
- c. VA PTA supports all efforts to secure full funding for programs under No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

2. Local school division control of school calendars

- a. VA PTA urges legislators to grant local school boards the authority to determine school start dates for the year (Code of Virginia 22.1-7.1)

3. Additional Funding for Government Agencies Protecting Children from Crime

- a. VA PTA supports legislation that would increase funding for government agencies that identify and prosecute those who commit crimes against children (LAI 2010).

4. Teen Dating Violence Legislation

- a. VA PTA seeks and supports legislation that would allow for teen victims' access to domestic violence protection orders (2009 Convention Resolution).

5. Closing the Gun Show Loophole

- a. VA PTA seeks and supports legislation requiring individual sellers at gun shows to conduct background checks before selling a weapon.

6. Registered Nurses in Every School

- a. VA PTA encourages and supports legislation that would provide a fully-funded, full-time registered nurse in every school during school hours in order to provide for and maintain the optimum health and safety of our children (2009 Convention Resolution).

Virginia PTA Opposes:

1. Vouchers By Any Name

- a. VA PTA opposes any "CHOICE" plan which would:
 - i. use public funds for private school vouchers and/or financing;
 - ii. fail to guarantee an excellent education for those students who do not, or can not "choose;"
 - iii. fail to guarantee equal access;
 - iv. cause any public school to become unable to compete as a result of student and financial loss;
 - v. lead to segregation by race, socio-economic class or disability.
- b. VA PTA opposes the use of public funds for non-public elementary or secondary education.

2. 65% Classroom Funding Requirement

- a. VA PTA opposes any changes in the Virginia Constitution that would reduce the authority and responsibility of the local school board of public school supervision or administration.

Contact Kathy Burcher, VA PTA Legislation Chair with any questions.
legislation@vapta.org

