

## Austin Council of PTAs Legislative Resource Fair - January 17, 2019

We asked, and you answered! ACPTA surveyed Austin ISD’s PTA leaders, PSS and principals to identify the legislative issues that matter most to you this year. Here’s a list of your top five, with a valuable local resource for each – a group that you can invite to speak to your campus community at a PTA meeting, so people can learn more about these important issues. **People can learn even more about legislative issues through our Make It Matter Monday emails. Email [advocacy@austincouncilpta.org](mailto:advocacy@austincouncilpta.org) to join that list.** Once a week, you will receive information about important issues and information about an action you can take if you choose. It’s great information to share with your PTA members in a newsletter.

Texas PTA is also here to help you learn more. **Texas PTA has identified fourteen legislative priorities, focused on four categories: Supporting Student Success, Health & Safety, Meaningful Assessment & Accountability, and Strengthening Public Schools.** Please stop by the Texas PTA table for a copy of ALL Texas PTA Legislative Priorities. You can also find details and resources online at <https://www.txpta.org/legislative-priorities>. You will also find Information about Texas PTA Rally Day on the Texas PTA website, at <https://www.txpta.org/rally-day>. It’s a fun and informative event that brings PTAs, students and experts in public school advocacy together at Texas PTA and the Texas Capitol on February 25. Please join us!

| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TEXAS PTA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>These are the TOP FIVE chosen by AISD PTA leaders.</b></p>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WHO CAN YOU INVITE TO TALK WITH YOUR PTA?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>These groups! Their programs are FREE and available in English and Spanish.</b></p>   |
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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public School Funding System Reform</b></p> <p>Pursue an adequate and equitable solution for school funding that maintains accountability and responsibility for educating the whole child and includes funding for enrollment growth.</p> <p><a href="https://www.txpta.org/fund-public-education">https://www.txpta.org/fund-public-education</a></p>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Just Fund It TX</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:info@justfundittx.org">info@justfundittx.org</a><br/> <a href="http://www.justfundittx.org">www.justfundittx.org</a></p> <p>Just Fund It TX is a campaign led by Texas parents and students that works to educate people about school funding in Texas and encourage reforms to the way our public schools are paid for. Volunteers will make an easy to understand presentation to your PTA, neighborhood association or other group about school funding. You can also use their toolkits to learn more about how our schools are funded and how you can take action to advocate for changes that will benefit ALL Texas public school students.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Student Mental Health</b></p> <p>Improve school safety by developing and funding a comprehensive plan of programs and services specifically designed to help students be mentally strong and prepared to cope with personal challenges, and systems to identify and provide services to students in need of mental health intervention.</p> <p><a href="https://www.txpta.org/student-mental-health">https://www.txpta.org/student-mental-health</a></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Integral Care</b></p> <p>Chris Tarango, Community Engagement Manager<br/> <a href="mailto:Christopher.Tarango@IntegralCare.org">Christopher.Tarango@IntegralCare.org</a><br/> <a href="http://www.IntegralCare.org">www.IntegralCare.org</a></p> <p>Integral Care provides school-based mental health care services in 14 AISD campuses to students experiencing mental health and substance use issues. Licensed therapists provide services during school hours, immediately after school, year-round and during school vacations. Services include: counseling and support for children and families.</p>  |

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Special Education Funding</b></p> <p>Support increased funding for special education services sufficient to address the requirements of the federal government’s corrective action, including teacher training, student evaluation, and increased student services.</p> <p><a href="https://www.txpta.org/special-education-funding">https://www.txpta.org/special-education-funding</a></p> | <p><b>VELA</b></p> <p>Imelda Rodriguez<br/> <a href="mailto:imelda@velafamilies.org">imelda@velafamilies.org</a><br/> <a href="http://www.velafamilies.org">www.velafamilies.org</a></p> <p>VELA is a nonprofit organization that empowers families of children with special needs through hands-on information, resources, support and community-building. Their services are free and available in both English and Spanish.</p> <p><b>Disability Rights Texas</b></p> <p>Steven Aleman, Policy Specialist<br/> <a href="mailto:saleman@drtx.org">saleman@drtx.org</a><br/> <a href="http://www.disabilityrightstx.org">www.disabilityrightstx.org</a></p> <p>Disability Rights Texas opened its doors in 1977 with the mission of helping people with disabilities understand and exercise their rights under the law, ensuring their full and equal participation in society. They offer free services and connections to other groups that can help.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Literacy by 3rd Grade</b></p> <p>Support programs that ensure all 3rd grade students are reading and writing on grade-level, including full-day Pre-K funding that prioritizes students in at-risk environments.</p> <p><a href="https://www.txpta.org/literacy-by-third-grade">https://www.txpta.org/literacy-by-third-grade</a></p>  | <p><b>Austin Public Library &amp; The Library Foundation</b></p> <p>Katelin Kelly, Programs Coordinator, The Library Foundation<br/> <a href="mailto:kkelly@austinlibrary.org">kkelly@austinlibrary.org</a><br/> <a href="http://www.austinlibrary.org">www.austinlibrary.org</a></p> <p>In conjunction with the City of Austin’s strategic plan and focus on lifelong learning, Austin Public Library and Austin Independent School District (AISD) are partnering to make full-access library cards available to all district students. Library cards are free and give access to libraries throughout Austin. The library also works to promote literacy and a love of reading with programs for people of all ages. Their Raise a Reader program supports early literacy and their Badgerdog Creative Writing Program serves people from youth to adults through school workshops, camps and other workshops.</p>   |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Juvenile Justice Reform</b></p> <p>Support comprehensive reform of the Juvenile Justice system, increasing the age of adult criminal responsibility from 17 to 18, and policies that reduce the school-to-prison pipeline.</p>   | <p><b>Excellence and Advancement Foundation</b></p> <p>Camille Duale, Case Manager<br/> <a href="http://www.breakthepipeline.org">www.breakthepipeline.org</a></p> <p>The Excellence and Advancement Foundation provides services to break the school to prison pipeline by coordinating prevention and intervention programs to support children that may be at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system. The group offers prevention programs for young people and intervention programs for children and adults who have been impacted by the criminal justice system.</p>   |