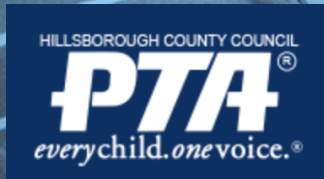


Advocacy

Legislative Session 2019 Update



Brita Wilkins Lincoln, VP Advocacy
Debra Bellanti, Legislative Chair



PTA is the oldest & largest
Volunteer Child Advocacy Organization
in the Country.



PTA in Tallahassee 2019

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COUNCIL

PTA[®]
everychild.one voice.®

About our Legislature

- In the Florida Legislature there are 40 senators (23 Rs/17Ds) and 120 House members (73 Rs/47 Ds)
- Senators can file unlimited numbers of bills
House members can file 6
- Last year 1,861 bills filed, 195 made it to the governor's desk
- The leadership of the Senate is critical as President of the Senate (Galvano) selects all of the Committee Chairs and they determine which bills will get calendared

Hillsborough County Delegation

■ 4 Senators

- Cruz
- Lee
- Galvano
- Rouson

■ 9 House Members

- Hart
- Toledo
- J. Grant
- Valdes
- McClure
- Driskell
- Beltran
- Hattersley
- Newton

What was signed into law?

- **SB 7030/HB 7093** – Implementation of the MSDHS Public Safety Commission. Increases mental health resources and professionals in schools, but expands the Guardian Program to arm teachers (Hillsborough is not opting in)
- **SB 7070 /HB 7075** expands charters and creates a new voucher program Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.
- **SB 1112/HB 7123** requires future referendum funds to be shared with charter schools
- **HB 107** texting while driving is now a primary offense and drivers must be hands free while driving in School and Work Zones
- **Appropriations** increase of \$75 for per pupil spending

What was not passed?

- Baker Act bill (priority for PTA for 2020)
- Drinking Water in Public Schools
- Native language testing
- Background checks

How your elected officials voted

Senate vote on SB 7030	
No	Yes
Cruz	Rouson
	Galvano
	Lee

House vote on SB 7030	
No	Yes
Beltran	J. Grant
Driskell	McClure
Hart	Toledo
Hattersley	
Newton	
Valdes	

How your elected officials voted

SB 7070 Created voucher program	
Senate	
No	Yes
Cruz	Lee
Rouson	Galvano
House	
No	Yes
Driskell	Beltran
Hart	Grant
Hattersley	McClure
	Newton
	Toledo
	Valdes

We could do better.

- Florida ranks as one of the lowest among states for their education spending – 45th.
- Florida is ranked as 46th for teacher pay

It is important to note that PTA is a non-partisan organization

- As PTA we focus on issues that have been voted on by our membership at a national, state, county council or school level
- It is imperative that we not criticize elected representatives on social media under PTA pages – this damages our credibility
- At times the reality is that this is quite challenging especially with representatives that clearly do not support public education. We can say that we align ourselves with elected officials that support our goals of improving public education.

How do I stay up on what's happening?

- Join HCC PTA/PTSA Advocacy Group Facebook group
- Join Hillsborough County Council PTA/PTSA Facebook group
- HCC PTA/PTSA website <http://hccptapta.org/>
- Join the Florida PTA Facebook group and Advocacy group
- Florida PTA website <https://floridapta.org/>
- Alliance for Public Schools <http://all4schools.org/>
- Join the League of Women Voters
- Coffee with the Candidates – Facebook group
- Florida PTA Voice of the Voter
- <https://floridapta.org/voter-voice-legislative/>
- National PTA Take Action Network
<http://www.pta.org/advocacy/takesaction.cfm?navItemNumber=3451>

Florida PTA Takes Action Alerts – FloridaPTA.ORG



ABOUT US

PTA LEADERS

PROGRAMS
+ EVENTS

FOCUS AREAS

RESOURCES

JOIN
+ CONNECT

Voter Voice – Legislative



Voter Voice – Legislative Alerts

*Sign up for Florida PTA's Take Action Network to learn more about legislative issues affecting families, schools, and communities and to stay informed on the latest updates from Tallahassee.

***By registering for Florida PTA's Take Action Network, you will be joining over 300,000 child advocates in Florida that support and speak up for children, (REGISTRATION MUST BE UPDATED YEARLY. – If you have signed up previously, please do so again today!)**

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)



[CLICK HERE](#) for Your Elected Officials



FOCUS AREAS

ADVOCACY +

[TAKE ACTION SIGN UP
\(VOTERS VOICE\)](#)

[LEGISLATION](#)

[RESOLUTIONS](#)

[GUIDE FOR THE PTA
ADVOCATE](#)

[CONSTITUTION REVISION
COMMISSION](#) X

How to stay informed?

- Join the FB Group & Turn on Notifications for:
 - HCC PTA Advocacy Group
 - Hillsborough County Council PTA/PTSA
- Twitter @hccpta
- Gradebook by Tampa Bay Times on Facebook
- Alliance for Public Schools - <https://all4schools.org> also on FB
- Join the League of Women Voters, Hillsborough and Florida FB pages

Successes Last Year

- Educating our Membership through two showings of the documentary, “ **Backpack Full of Cash**”.
- Supporting **Coffee with the Candidates** where our members were encouraged to come get to know all School Board candidates and all State House and Senate candidates.
- Advocated for the passing of the **Half Cent Sales Tax Referendum** to support our District Infrastructure that is not funded by the State of Florida.