

PTACHC Legislative Position Statement 2021

The PTA Council of Howard County assists local units to advocate for the education and well-being of children. Where appropriate, PTACHC will take positions on countywide issues. By creating positions approved by a vote of the membership, PTACHC retains its credibility and legitimacy when affecting the outcome of legislation. Positions may range from broad-based high-level items to very specific items. Where practicable, long-term positions should be reaffirmed to ensure they continue to be supported by the standing membership.

Advocacy may range from simple sharing of information, to providing testimony, to proactive legislative efforts. The timing and pace of externally generated legislation has a direct impact in manner of response PTACHC can provide. Communication, knowledge of issues and participation of PTA members enhance the ability to be successful.

National PTA – PTACHC will support National PTA legislative positions

State PTA – PTACHC will support State PTA legislative positions

PTACHC will not take opposing official positions to parent organizations. PTACHC members are encouraged to be actively involved and provide input on these positions to reflect membership sentiment. Likewise, local PTA units cannot take opposing positions of PTACHC positions but are strongly encouraged to keep local membership apprised of issues, have all delegates and presidents vote on PTACHC positions, and encourage participation at all levels of legislative advocacy. PTACHC positions reflect the direction of its membership, but do not preclude individuals from unaffiliated advocacy on their own behalf and beliefs.

PTACHC is not a partisan organization and must conduct its business in a non-partisan manner. Legislative efforts require communications with elected officials, but the organization cannot endorse or financially lobby elected officials.

PTACHC legislative will regularly review priorities of its membership, provide information, seek consensus, create positions with broad levels of support, testify and advocate at all levels of government for the betterment of Howard County's children.

PTACHC's primary legislative contacts consist of, but are not limited to...

The Governor of Maryland

Maryland State Delegation

Howard County Executive and administration

Howard County Council

Howard County Public School System Board of Education

Howard County Public School System Superintendent and administration