

# PRHS PTSA Legislative Report MARCH 2021

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## Overview

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## National PTA Legislative Highlights

1. National PTA Public Policy Priorities for the 117th Congress [link](#)

## Education Related GA Legislation Highlights

1. GA General Assembly House Education Committee 46 bills [link](#)
2. GA General Assembly Senate Education & Youth Committee 24 bills [link](#)
3. Top GA PTA bills
  - **HOPE Scholarship:**
  - [HB 87](#) will provide HOPE grant eligibility for students seeking an associate degree at a branch of the Technical College System of Georgia. It also includes remedial and developmental courses required for such degree.
  - [HB 89](#) will provide students who do not qualify for the Zell Mill Scholarship freshman year a path to the scholarship.
  - [HB 283](#) Zell Miller Scholarship will remove the SAT and ACT requirements for students who graduate from eligible high schools.
  - **Attendance:**
  - [HB155](#) and [SB 3](#) raise the compulsory school attendance age to 17.
  - [HB 262](#) will lower the compulsory school attendance age to 4 calling for mandatory Pre-K. Currently, Georgia's children are required to attend school between their 6th and 16th birthdays.
  - **Elementary school:**
  - [SB 110](#) would prohibit homework in grades K-2

- [SB 122](#) the mandatory Recess Bill would require 30 minutes of recess in grades K-8
- **GA PTA supports great programming and recess but cannot support legislators taking control away from local school boards.** Bills like [HB 287](#) which includes Vaping and Tobacco in Health Education or [SB 15](#) which requires coursework in Founding Philosophy Principles of the US and Black History provide for positive additions to education curriculum, however, we must urge our legislators, to work with local school boards to make those changes locally or through the state school board. Local school boards are more likely to know the needs of their schools and families.
- **GA PTA supports legislation, regulation, and local measures to address vaping** - the manufacturing of and ingredients in e-cigarettes and other Electronic Nicotine Delivery System as well as to prohibit the advertising, marketing and sale of e-cigarettes and other Electronic Nicotine Delivery System, to youth (18 years or younger) and to prohibit the use of e-cigarettes and other Electronic Nicotine Delivery System in public places and school grounds. These are but a few issues that will be discussed at their virtual [2021 PTA Day at the Capitol](#).
- **Other bills on GA PTA's radar**
  - [HB 54](#): Education; instruction on the best practices for and risks associated with the use of tampons; provide
  - [HB 60](#): Education; Expand eligibility of who qualifies for Education Savings Acct.
  - [HB 87](#): Education; HOPE grant eligibility for students seeking an associate degree; provisions
  - [HB 89](#): Education; eligibility as a Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar for students who do not qualify as freshmen
  - [HB 155](#) & [SB 3](#): Education; raise age of mandatory education for children from 16 to 17
  - [HB 195](#): Quality Basic Education Act; require course of study in sex education and HIV/AIDS prevention instruction is medically accurate
  - [HB 201](#) & [SB 17](#): Unlocking the Promise Whole Child Model Schools Act; enact
  - [HB 259](#): Education; need based HOPE scholarship and grant; create
  - [HB 262](#): Education; mandatory pre-kindergarten and kindergarten for all children prior to entering into first grade; provide
  - [HB 276](#): Education; unlawful for public or private schools whose students compete against a public school to operate athletic programs that permit a person whose gender is male to participate in an athletic program that is designated for females; provide
  - [HB 283](#): Education; HOPE; revise definition of term Zell Miller Scholarship Scholar
  - [HB 287](#): Education; tobacco and vapor products in course of instruction regarding alcohol and drugs; include
  - [HB 372](#): Education; definition for the term gender; provide
  - [SB 15](#): Coursework in the Founding Philosophy and Principles of the USA; new category of coursework dealing with the history of Black people and their contributions to American society; create
  - [SB 47](#): Expands who qualifies for the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship to include students with select Section 504 Plans, children of active military parents based in GA, and children in foster care

- **SB 110:** “After School Recess Act”; enact prohibit the assignment of graded homework for students in grades kindergarten through two
- **SB 122:** “Quality Basic Education Act,”; scheduled recess periods of 30 minutes each school day for students in kindergarten through grade eight; provide

### **GA PTA Day at the Capitol 2021 Highlights**

PTA Day at the Capitol was held virtually on March 2nd.

Some of the Bills about Curriculum are mentioned above.

HB54, HB195, HB287, HB 547(student led prayer during moment of silence), SB 15, SB110, SB122.

### **GA Legislative Conference 2021 Highlights**

The legislative conference was held virtually March 9-11.

Had an opportunity to meet virtually with the staff of Senator Warnock, Congressman Clyde and Congresswoman Bordeaux.

PTA Hill Asks:

- Make meaningful robust investments in education in the next covid relief package.
- Include schools in any comprehensive infrastructure package. PTA urges members of congress to cosponsor and pass the **Reopen and Rebuild America’s Schools Act of 2021**.
- Increase funding for the statewide Family Engagement centers to \$20 million.
- Improve the federal school meal program through Child Nutrition reauthorization. **Hunger Free Act of 2010** has been subject to roll back,weakening standards for milk, whole grain and sodium served to children.
- Support policies which protect all students, including students from historically marginalized populations and communities.PTA urges members of congress to introduce and pass The Keeping all **Students Safe ACT(KASSA) and protecting our students in schools Act**.

Other topics discussed by speakers: Racial justice and equality, mental health and The Trevor project.

Respectfully Submitted,

***Dawn Carman & Rukhama Sayed***

PRHS PTSA Legislative Liaisons