

# PTA & PARENTS ON REOPENING SCHOOLS

Presented by *Evie Hudak*

Colorado PTA Public Policy Director

[legislative@copta.org](mailto:legislative@copta.org)

303-887-9388

# Mission/Purpose of PTA

MISSION: To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to **advocate** for all children.

*(One of the purposes of PTA:)* To advocate for laws that further the education, physical and mental health, welfare, and safety of children and youth.

# Who is PTA?

- ◆ PTA is a national and state network of parents and families who work with educators, schools, businesses, and communities to accomplish our mission.
- ◆ Colorado PTA has about 20,000 members, most of whom are parents of children in public schools.
- ◆ Anyone who supports our mission can join PTA.

# PTA's Position Statement on School Reopening & COVID

*(1<sup>st</sup> paragraph)*

PTA advocates for healthy learning environments for all students and school staff. We believe that all school health, wellness, and safety plans should be based on science and factual evidence and should change as new scientifically acquired information becomes available. This approach is why our position is that schools should **re-open only in accordance with** the initial guidelines outlined by the CDC, CDPHE, and local departments of public health.

# Position statement, *cont.*

Colorado PTA supports federal and state programs that provide additional funding for schools to enhance building safety including ventilation systems, structural improvements that allow appropriate physical distancing, student isolation if infection is suspected or documented, effective PPE for all staff and students, actionable testing for students and staff, hardware and technological access to support students through digital learning, and additional staff to help facilitate small groups and physical distancing.

We urge Congress and the state of Colorado to ensure that all students have access to reliable broadband internet access.

# Position statement, *cont.*

When in-person learning cannot be achieved **safely**, schools and districts should provide high-quality remote learning options that are equitably accessible to all students and families. We believe that family and student supports must be maintained both while schools are in-person and using remote learning, including food and nutrition services, mental health support, special education services, and English language learning supports.

# Position statement, *cont.*

We believe that all plans for school re-opening should include procedures for tracking and tracing transmission of COVID-19 infections, protocols for students and staff who test positive for COVID-19, thoughtful plans for cleaning/disinfecting schools, best practices for maintaining physical distancing, and other measures that mitigate illness transmission in schools.

# Position statement, *concl.*

Colorado PTA urges all school districts, legislators, and the Colorado Department of Education to include parents, educators, and students in all decision-making related to re-opening school plans and to provide clear communication avenues to address concerns before, during, and after plans are developed.



# Parent feedback from PTA's Forum on Reopening Schools

(Aug. 19, 2020)

Do you feel like your opinion has been solicited by your school district regarding reopening and remote learning?

Yes - 67%

No - 33%

Is there a system established with your school district to provide feedback during the reopening or remote learning?

Yes - 46%

No - 54%

# Parent feedback in national survey (Education Week)

Level of trust that schools will keep their children healthy for in-person instruction:

50% - somewhat to very high

21% - “on the fence”

**30%** - low to nonexistent\*

\*Respondents with low to nonexistent trust:

39% of black parents

33% of Latino parents

26% of white parents

*37% of parents who said they plan to vote for Joe Biden*