



Let Your Voice Be Heard – New State Funding Needed! Please VOTE!

In February of this year, Virginia lawmakers voted to increase the number of PE hours required in public schools to 150 hours a week of physical activity, starting in 2014. (The current PE requirement in Fairfax County is 60 minutes.) In March, Governor McDonnell vetoed the legislation, describing it as an unfunded mandate. Several lawmakers have vowed to reintroduce the legislation. While many support the spirit of the law, aimed at reducing childhood obesity, without funding, this law could place a large financial burden on our schools, and may shorten or eliminate other valuable programs.

The VA State PTA supports additional state funding for the implementation of any increased PE requirements in grades K-8 so that there is no compromise of art, music, technology or foreign language programs currently in place. Hunters Woods PTA is part of a larger, state-wide Virginia PTA, and one of the benefits of membership is that we have the opportunity to weigh-in on the Proposed Legislative Program (PLP) each year. The 2012 PLP includes this important legislative action item that, if not passed, could have a serious impact on our school. To view the full details of the VA state PTA's 2012 proposed legislative program, please visit <http://www.vapta.org>.

All members of Hunters Woods PTA are encouraged to vote on this and two other proposed items in the PLP. There are two ways to vote:

- 1.) Vote online by visiting the survey link at www.hwpta.org; OR
- 2.) Fill out the paper ballot included here and return it to your child's teacher.

Please vote by Monday, October 19th, so we can compile and submit all the votes in time to meet the VA PTA deadline (at the end of that week).

Don't miss this opportunity to let your voice be heard on important state-level PTA initiatives impacting our children! Thank you. For more info, contact presidentelect@hwpta.org.

PTA MEMBER BALLOT
2012 Virginia PTA Proposed Legislative Program (PLP)

The **PLP, the Proposed Legislative Program**, contains issues and proposed positions on which PTA members are asked to vote upon. The members will decide if the Virginia PTA should advocate for these issues. For full details on these please visit <http://www.vapta.org>.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION ITEMS (LAI) are requests for the introduction, passage or defeat of specific legislation by the General Assembly and/or regulations by the Board of Education or other appropriate agencies.

POLICY STATEMENTS (PS) are statements of the Virginia PTA/PTSA on general issues and may be used as the basis for addressing issues before the General Assembly, Virginia Board of Education or other appropriate agencies.

LEGISLATION ACTION ITEM #1:

VA PTA supports additional state funding for the implementation of any increased PE requirements in grades K-8 so that there is no compromise of art, music, technology or foreign language programs currently in place.

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Abstain

LEGISLATIVE ACTION ITEM #2:

VA PTA reaffirms our position in support of legislation granting a local option in setting school calendars and school year start dates.

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Abstain

POSITION STATEMENT #1:

The Virginia PTA supports virtual and online schools designed to provide alternative learning opportunities for students in surrounding school districts insofar as those virtual schools do not divert funds or resources from localities. Virtual and online schools should comply with Virginia's Standards of Accreditation.

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Abstain

Please return to your child's teacher by Monday Oct. 19th.
Thank you!