



January 9, 2021



FIRST FRIDAYS *Newsletter*

President's Welcome

I hope your Winter Break was relaxing because we are hitting the ground running with important advocacy work!

On January 13, the General Assembly will convene to reevaluate the 2-year state budget. Virginia ranks 41st in the nation for per-pupil state spending and we need the voices of PTA members to advocate for change. Please add the following Virginia PTA events to your school PTA's calendars and promote them in your newsletters.

As you know, Henrico County Public Schools are scheduled to return to in-person instruction this month. PTAs can support their teachers by ensuring they have the tools needed to provide quality instruction in hybrid learning environments. Please continue to work with your principal to identify and request from HCPS the necessary resources. Remember to keep HCC PTA and School Board Members apprised of your funding needs.

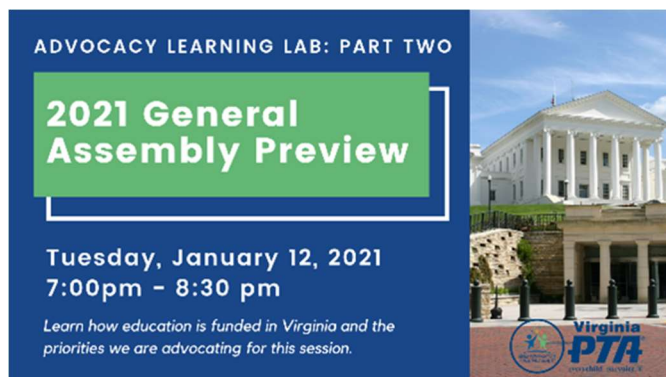
Advocacy Learning Labs



Learning Lab Webinar Part One:

Building an Advocacy Climate in Your School (Thurs. January 7th, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.), will help you re-connect with our PTA mission and include advocacy in your PTA work. We will talk about balancing fundraising with advocacy and how to build family engagement and

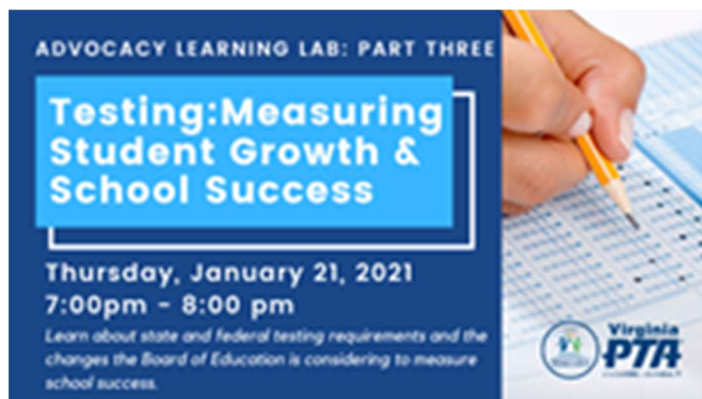
programs that lift up issues that are important to your community. We will also talk about how to use resolutions and position statements to elevate issues with your school board and legislators, and ways to build community awareness through grass roots and digital advocacy. [REGISTER HERE](#)



Learning Lab Webinar Part Two:

General Assembly Preview (Tues. January 12th, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.), will take a deep look at the basics of education funding, Virginia PTA's legislative priorities and the staffing and equity funding recommended by the Virginia Board of Education. We'll also talk about how the General

Assembly works, how to follow the action, contact your legislators, and amplify our priorities. [REGISTER HERE](#)



Learning Lab Webinar Part Three:

Testing: Measuring Student Growth and School Success (Thurs. January 21st, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.), will help parents understand state and federal testing requirements, the indicators used to accredit schools and what to expect if your school doesn't meet the

standards. We will also explore the impact of COVID -19 on school accreditation and changes the Virginia Board of Education is considering as part of the standard revision process.

Presenters: Shelley Loving-Ryder, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Student Assessment, Accountability, and ESEA & Julie Molique, Director, Office of Accountability.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



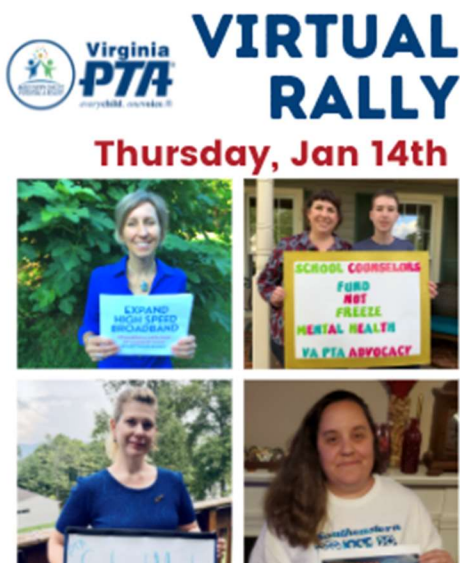
Learning Lab Webinar Part Four:

General Assembly Wrap-Up and Bringing Advocacy Home

(Thurs. Feb 25th, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.), will cover what happened in this General Assembly Session, how you can maintain a relationship with your legislator and ways that you can bring new

legislation and ideas back to your community to enact change through your local school board. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Virtual Rally



On January 14, #TakeAction4Kids by sharing a picture or video highlighting your top priority!

Tag two friends or a neighboring PTA and challenge them to join you.

Set your post to 'public' and tag your legislators.

Please tag @VirginiaPTA and use hashtags when you share pictures so we can build excitement and momentum across the state.

#VAPTAAdvocacy, #TakeAction4Kids, #VirtualRally, #ConstituentConnections, #FundOurSchools

[Social Media Toolkit](#) is available here!

Constituent Connections



Please register to participate in a Town Hall style discussion with your state delegate and senator. Dates and times will be based on legislator availability between January 18th and February 5th. This will be a conversation to share your personal stories and the challenges or opportunities your school faces that amplifies our PTA priorities. Debbie Long will contact you with information about how to participate.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Did You Know? Almost all of Henrico's state delegates and both senators sit on the Education Committee, making our voices very important.

Delegate VanValkenburg is carrying a bill that addresses a VA PTA priority.

Reflections Updated



HCC PTA Reflections Chair Mary Wilson reports that all Reflections entries have been judged and winners have been submitted to the Richmond District. Your school's contact person has been advised of winners from your school, which will be formally announced at the HCC PTA Reflections Awards Program on February 24.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

P.S. - Please ask around to see if your school has a former Reflections Chair that might be willing to serve at the county-level next year.

Free Books



The deadline to order free books for Read Across America Day is **February 10th, 2021**.

The Literacy Empowerment Foundation invites your school or other literacy project to apply for FREE books for Read Across America Day. During the past year, LEF has distributed over 3,000,000 books to schools all across the country for Read Across America Day and other literacy projects. Resources are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

[ORDER FORM](#)

Important Dates



Past Due

Nov 1

Dues deadline for VA PTA. Please contact your Area Rep for assistance.

Upcoming

Jan 7

Varina District PTA Leadership Meeting with School Board Representative Alicia Atkins, 6 – 7 p.m. PTA leaders in Varina are invited to join a discussion about the past, present, and future of Varina District PTAs. PTA leaders from other districts are welcome to attend. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Jan 20

HCC PTA Board Meeting. Send topics to president@hccpt.com

Jan 29

Dues deadline for HCC PTA extended. You should have received an invoice. Please contact Treasurer@hccpta.com with questions or concerns.

Feb 24

HCC PTA General Meeting and Reflections Awards Program. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Your Support Team

You can find the contact information for the full HCC PTA Board at <https://www.hccpta.com/board>. We are always glad to help you fulfill your mission!

Area Representatives

Keith Radogna: Brookland@hccpta.com

Alice Thompson: Fairfield@hccpta.com

Kelley Hope: ThreeChopt@hccpta.com

VACANT (Debbie Long): Tuckahoe@hccpta.com

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