



Can I make a difference?

Yes, it does! It is important to make your voice heard as an advocate for the betterment of all students in South Carolina.

How do I do it?

- Keep it simple – most issues can be explained, and a position stated, in only a few sentences.
- Use the tool that works for you – call, write a letter, email or schedule a meeting.
- Be direct – make specific requests for specific positions and actions.
- Be an educator – invite elected officials to visit a PTA meeting or showcase your programs.
- Say thank you – remember to thank each of the elected officials for their time and their position or action on issues where there is agreement.
- Follow up – be sure to provide any information offered or requested.
- Relax! Effective advocates do not need to be polished, professional lobbyists.

How do I find them?

- Local School Board
Visit your local school district's webpage, all contact information for the School Board is listed there.
- State Board of Education
<https://ed.sc.gov/state-board/state-board-of-education/about-state-board/state-board-members-information-and-biographies/>
- South Carolina Legislature
<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/>
- Federal Legislature
<https://www.scpta.org/elected/>

What are the rules?

As an individual, you can and should always advocate for your own personal beliefs representing yourself. As a PTA member, you can advocate mentioning your PTA affiliation on the official positions of the South Carolina PTA:

<https://www.scpta.org/uploads/files/scpta-resolutions1702.pdf>

For official positions of the National PTA:

<https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/ptas-positions/Individual-Position-Statements>

For local school district issues, your PTA unit can vote on a position adopted through resolution at the national, state, district, council, or local level.

For more information on this contact the Bylaws Chair.

During elections there are much pressure on organizations to take a position, but as a PTA you are governed by a set of rules that can be found here. We are a non-partisan organization, and cannot endorse candidates. More about the expected conduct can be found here:

https://www.scpta.org/uploads/files/DOs_a_nDONTs_elections.pdf

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