

# UTAH PTA CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter Connecting & Empowering  
Parents and PTA Leaders



February 3, 2023

## Despite PTA efforts, Legislature Passes HB215

### 1. EDUCATION

Support an adequately funded public school system by: supporting a 6.5% WPU increase over and above growth and inflation to be used for purposes such as recruiting, supporting, and retaining teachers; supporting increased access to full-day kindergarten by funding K-12 students at a full WPU; and supporting policies to increase proficiency levels in public schools, improving attendance, and increase academic excellence for all Utah students.

### Education

6.5% WPU increase over and above growth and inflation. No student growth. Inflation is calculated at 3.4%.

Oppose the privatization of education with public funds. This is contrary to Utah constitution and contrary to the welfare of Utah children. Utah PTA has grave concerns over discrimination and lack of expectations, transparency and accountability for the program. HB 215.

Oppose income tax cuts which reduce the funding available for public education. Protect education funding through a Constitutional Guarantee.

Post Pandemic Recovery - Support funding for programs directed at helping students catch up and thrive. We support transparency, accountability, and targeted funding.

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We have entered week 3 of 7 of the legislative session, and you may have read the news. [H.B. 215](#), a bill that coupled a teacher pay increase with a transformation of how private schools and homeschools are funded, passed the house and senate and was signed into law by Governor Cox. It is designed to serve around 5,000 students. Utah PTA opposed this legislation for many reasons: this bill will use taxpayers' money to fund private enterprises; there is a lack of accountability for students and a lack of transparency for providers. We believe public education money is best spent on Utah public school students. Thank you to all who reached out to your legislators opposing this bill. Utah PTA will continue to fight for more funding for public education so that our students get the best education they all deserve.

## Safer Internet Day: Help Your Family Thrive in Our Digital Age



Kerry Gallagher  
ConnectSafely

Carrie Neill  
National PTA

### **SAFER INTERNET DAY 2023**

**No Room for Doom:**

Helping Your Family Thrive in Our  
Digital Age

ConnectSafely

Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 7:30 PM EST

National  
**PTA**  
everychild, every voice™

Safer Internet Day (Feb. 7, 2023) is an international education and awareness-raising effort celebrated in over 100 countries. Led by ConnectSafely and National PTA in the United States, it's a day to bring communities together to discuss the challenges families face navigating the digital world and empowers them to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively. National PTA and ConnectSafely are proud to offer a virtual learning session for parents and caregivers to explore how they can help their kids navigate five of the most common online scenarios they face: Screen time impact of influencers and celebrities, when kids feel left out, pressure to be perfect, online bullying, and harassment. For more information, see <https://www.pta.org/home/events/safer-internet-day>

## Presidents Report #2



Local PTA presidents submit a report 3 times a year. The second of these reports opened February 1 and is due February 15. Presidents will want to gather total volunteer hours and membership numbers paid for before starting the report. More information can be found at <https://www.utahpta.org/reports>

## Voter Voice Take Action Network

Have you been following the current 2023 Legislative Session? Do you want an easy way to communicate with your legislators when Utah PTA issues a Take Action Alert? Please click this [link](#) and confirm that Utah PTA has your address so we can connect you with your specific Representative and Senator. We want to make it easy for you to advocate for Utah's children.



## Board Specialist Applications

**Utah PTA is looking for Board Specialists**  
to serve under

Executive Committee:

1. Awards
2. Bylaws
3. Technology

Commissioners Committee:

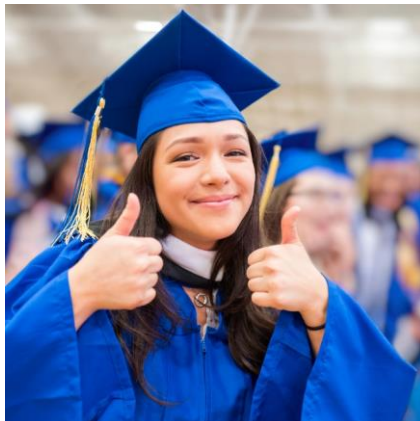
1. Digital Citizenship
2. Diversity & Inclusivity
3. Family Engagement
4. Male Engagement
5. Military Families
6. Reflections
7. Resolutions
8. Special Needs
9. Trust lands

**Utah PTA**  
everychild.one voice.

**Application Deadline :  
February 20, 2023**

We are now accepting applications for Board Specialist positions. Board Specialists are one-year positions and will serve during 2023 -2024. Click [here](#) to view more information, including job descriptions.

## Utah PTA Student Scholarships



In helping every child achieve their goal for higher education, it is the pleasure of Utah PTA to be able to offer four \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors in the 2023 class.

Utah PTA offers these scholarships to support students focused on a career goal. Utah PTA supports education and believes strongly in post-secondary education. All eligible students are encouraged to click [here](#) to learn more about this scholarship opportunity.

## Utah PTA Community Partner Announcements

### From PTA to the Lieutenant Governor's Office!

As my kids have gotten older, the following questions seem to permeate my thoughts. What's next? Should I go back to work? When my oldest son was born, I decided to take a career break and fully commit my time to be a mom. I'm not sure career break is the correct term; it was more of a career change. As a stay-at-home mom who has been heavily involved in the PTA and other volunteering opportunities, I have continued to develop organization and leadership skills while managing the demands of a busy family life. I have learned to be a creative, adaptive, and patient problem-solver, and I have come to cherish working with others to accomplish a shared goal.



I am certain fellow PTA members understand the demands of being a parent and the skills you develop as a volunteer in the PTA, but I was concerned with how my experience would translate to the workplace. Return Utah is a program designed specifically for people like me. Lieutenant Governor Deidre Henderson recognized the need to help individuals who have taken a career break return to work in meaningful, mid-level jobs and created the Return Utah Program.

I am currently working part-time in a returnship position that happens to be in the Lieutenant Governor's office, and I have nothing but positive things to say about the experience. While receiving on-the-job training, I also have access to training resources designed to help program participants feel confident and qualified to reenter the workforce. Each returnship position offered through the state is different and unique, but the resources available to participants are the same.

This process has helped provide valuable experience I can add to my resume, and I am excited to see where this opportunity will lead. My returnship will end in March. While I am not sure if returning to work is the best decision for me right now, the relationships I've created and the skills I've been able to develop will continue to serve me regardless of the path I pursue.

If you find yourself asking some of the same questions I've asked myself about what is next, I strongly encourage you to look into doing a returnship at [returnutah.org](http://returnutah.org) and invite others to join you!

- Joani Stevens

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## Sponsored Articles

### An Unforgettable Checking Account



When was the last time you truly thought about your checking account, beyond making a deposit? If you can't recall, it's because most checking accounts are forgettable. MyStyle Checking SM from Mountain America, on the other hand, makes a lasting impression. Take advantage of a suite of remarkable benefits, including:

- Loan rate discounts
- Mobile phone protection
- Telehealth services
- Savings and entertainment discounts

Make the memorable choice. Open your MyStyle Checking account today. [[Get started online](#)]

Insured by NCUA

1. Loan discount valid on new loans only. On approved credit.
2. Terms, conditions and exclusions apply. Some benefits require no-cost registration/activation. Membership required—based on eligibility.

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