

Why Does it Matter that I Attended Today?

PTA Advocacy Day programs have informed nearly two generations of area parents and community members on state and federal education issues. The day is steeped in a long tradition of caring, passionate citizens who come together once each year to find out about issues affecting the education of our children and take steps to advocate for improvements.

Advocacy comes in many forms. Whether it is a parent talking with the school principal or site council about issues at the school, a community member attending a school board meeting to address the board, or a constituent calling their local legislator's office, everyday citizens can have an impact through advocacy.

Through the years, the format and the location of Advocacy Day have changed, but the intent remains unchanged: to engage interested parents and community members in the process of advocacy.

How Do We Know We Can Make a Difference?

Since the founding of National PTA in 1897, when a group of concerned citizens came together to eliminate threats that endangered children, informed advocates have been able to affect change in support of our youth. In fact, through advocacy, as well as family and community education, National PTA has established programs and called for legislation that improves our children's lives, such as:

- Creation of Kindergarten classes
- Child labor laws
- Public health service
- Hot and healthy lunch programs
- Juvenile justice system
- Mandatory immunization
- Arts in Education
- School Safety

Locally, the advocacy efforts of engaged citizens have brought about significant improvements to education. As the timeline illustrates, it is the advocacy work of everyday folks that has made a real difference in the lives of California's kids.

ADVOCACY BEYOND TODAY

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[San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs](#)

website: www.srvcouncilpta.org

Social Media: [srvcpta](#)

T: [@srvcpta](#)

[Las Trampas Creek Council of PTAs](#)

website: www.ltccpta.org

FB: [@ltccpta](#)

[Pleasanton Council PTA](#)

website: www.pleasantonpta.org

FB: [Pleasanton-PTA-Council](#)

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Stay ConnectedCalifornia & nationally

[California State PTA](#) www.capta.org

[State Legislators](#) (for our Councils)

Senator Steven Glazer

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahn

[National PTA](#) www.pta.org

[Federal Legislators](#)

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier

Congressman Eric Swalwell

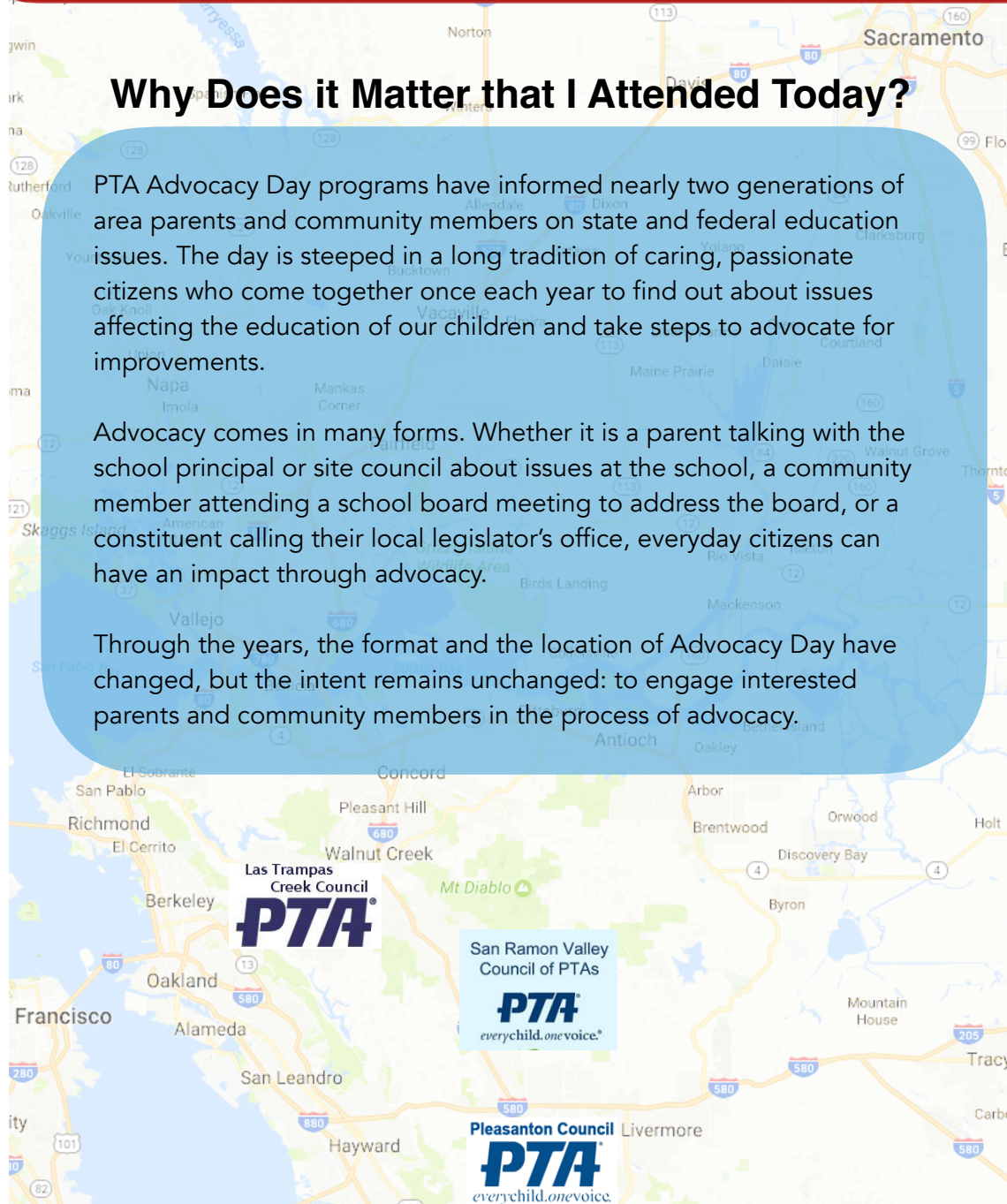
Senator Alex Padilla

Senator Laphonsa Butler

Stay Current

www.Ed100.org

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History of PTA Advocacy Day for Education

The first Advocacy Day took place in 1980. It was prompted by the passage of Proposition 13 and its anticipated negative impact on education. Advocacy Day founding leader, Gwen Regalia, worked with a small group of dedicated volunteers to convince people to take a bus to Sacramento and meet face to face with local legislators to advocate for education.

Today, our advocacy continues. We now meet locally and our legislators come to us. It sometimes feels as though our advocacy through the years has been centered on finances. Since California consistently ranks among the bottom five states in the nation in per pupil funding, there has been a great need for advocacy around the issue of funding. However, our advocacy efforts over three decades have also focused on issues of education reform, class size, standardized testing, special needs and children's health issues.

The Legislative Committees of local PTA councils plan and execute Advocacy Day on behalf of their respective councils. After years of empowering PTA volunteers to advocate, local PTAs have become strong partners with their school districts in ensuring access to quality programs and facilities for their students.

In addition to influencing our legislators, Advocacy Day also serves as a vehicle for informing PTA volunteers and community members. Often, the idea of advocacy can be intimidating. By putting on this annual event, we hope to make the idea of advocacy accessible to everyone. Thank you for attending and carrying on this important work.

Las Trampas Creek, Pleasanton & San Ramon Valley PTA Councils



Red type indicates direct PTA Advocacy impact

