

# West Virginia PTA College and Career Readiness Initiative



CCR/ESSA NEWSLETTER - September 2017

## West Virginia PTA forms the “WV Coalition for Public Education”

West Virginia PTA’s mission is to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. They have dedicated over 90 years toward bettering the lives of every child in education, health and safety and continue to be a powerful voice for all children, and a strong advocate for public education.

To effectively realize their mission, the College and Career Readiness Team of the West Virginia PTA is forming a coalition between the many organizations in our state that support a quality public education for our students. This new coalition will be comprised of civic, civil rights, child advocacy and education organizations that represent over 280,000 students statewide. The coalition will support public education and will oppose the expenditure of public funds to support private and religious schools through mechanisms such as tuition vouchers, tax credits and other types of vouchers.

West Virginia PTA will be hosting an event on Friday, September 22, 2017, at 8 am, at Fairmont State University, to officially announce the establishment of the West Virginia Coalition for Public Education. At this event, a representative from each organization joining the group will be participating in an official “coalition signing”. With support from the West Virginia Department of Education, the PTA believes there is strength in numbers and the more organizations involved in making their voices heard, the better our public education system will be. “I commend the West Virginia PTA for taking the initiative to bring together such a diverse group of stakeholder organizations who are commonly bound by the goal of providing the best possible education for all West Virginia students,” said West Virginia Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Steven Paine.

Now more than ever, our parents need to become more engaged in their children’s education to ensure they are college or career ready upon graduation. Please email [takeaction@westvirginiapta.org](mailto:takeaction@westvirginiapta.org) if you would like to participate or attend the official signing event on September 22. West Virginia PTA welcomes any organization to join the coalition that supports this initiative. The West Virginia Coalition for Public Education will stand strong in their efforts to ensure that all children in our state receive the opportunity for a quality, public education.

### Have you signed the petition?

National PTA is running a nationwide campaign—from July 7 to September 29—to raise public awareness that federal education funding—accounting for only 2% of the federal budget—is an inadequate investment for our children.

To participate and learn more about federal funding for education go to [www.PTA.org/STOPCuts](http://www.PTA.org/STOPCuts).

**Sign the Petition**

If you would like West Virginia PTA to come to your school or community and answer questions, or host a workshop, email [takeaction@westvirginiapta.org](mailto:takeaction@westvirginiapta.org). Don't forget, we will provide the refreshments!



### WV PTA ESSA Resources/Contacts

Check out the wonderful resources from National PTA and West Virginia about ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) and the implementation of our federal education law on our state PTA website: [www.westvirginiapta.org](http://www.westvirginiapta.org). Contact any one of our team members today to schedule a workshop at your school!

Janelle Sperry (Chairperson)	304-279-7270
Kathy Parker (Partnerships)	304-476-6002
Karen Sherman (Communications)	304-279-4394
Rose Rossana (Education)	304-476-0889