

This is the **Indiana PTA Good News Alert** that goes out every Sunday night throughout the year. **Please feel free to pass this on to your PTA contacts!**

We are looking to highlight PTA's and Council's across the state that are excelling at membership, projects, or just have a great idea to share! We also hope this keeps you up to date on deadlines and events for Indiana PTA.

[INDIANA PTA UPDATE](#)

INDIANA PTA BOARD OF MANAGERS MET THIS WEEKEND

You will want to stay tuned to next week's email alert and pay close attention to the Indiana PTA website and Facebook fan page this week as news comes out of all of the committee meetings that were held in Indianapolis. We have a tentative list of Saturday workshops and mini-roundtable workshops for the 2010 Indiana PTA Convention to tell you about; an announcement of a new award; an update on the Outstanding Membership Campaign Award; the Indiana PTA Legislative Day registration form will be going up (and with space restrictions this year, you will need to get your registration in soon); our sponsorship information is being updated... and so much more. It is amazing to work with a group of truly dedicated PTA volunteers who set the policies, organize the events, and make Indiana PTA a force to be reckoned with! Thank you to all of the Board of Managers members for their hard work this weekend to make Indiana PTA better for all our units and members across the state!

AN INDIANA PTA LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Indiana PTA received this email from the Indiana Association of College Teacher Education (IACTE) and the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents. This topic is of interest to many of our PTA units and members and we wanted to get you this information. **THERE WILL BE THREE HEARINGS VERY SOON ON THIS THAT YOU MAY WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN OR AT THE VERY LEAST, GET THE PETITION BELOW TO YOUR INTERESTED MEMBERS SO THEIR VOICE CAN BE COUNTED ON THIS ISSUE.**

The public hearings on this issue will be on:

- **October 27, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Rochester High School**
- **October 29, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Scotsburg Middle School**
- **and November 2, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Indiana State Library**
- **To participate in the meetings, you must sign-in, you will have 3 minutes to speak and you must present a written copy of your comments.**

An electronic petition through which individuals may voice their opposition to the Rules for Educator Preparation and Accountability (REPA) has been prepared in collaboration with IACTE and members of the Coalition. The REPA Coalition of Education Groups met on October 1st and agreed to support the distribution of this electronic petition. You are encouraged to respond AND to forward the petition below (simply cut and paste) to groups in your local and professional community. Current plans are to present the results of the petition at the public hearing in Indianapolis. Please help in sharing information about REPA and voicing individuals' concerns.

Thank you - Jill Shedd, IACTE Executive Secretary

[PETITION TO BE DISTRIBUTED]

Dear Indiana Citizen–

Below is a petition in which individuals can voice that they DO NOT SUPPORT THE CURRENT PROPOSED RULES FOR EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY (REPA). We encourage you to send *your own response* AND to forward this electronic petition to individuals throughout your local and professional community. To voice that individuals DO NOT SUPPORT REPA, all they need to do is send an e-mail to repapetition@yahoo.com. RESPONSES MUST BE SENT NO LATER THAN MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2009.

Please click on the email address repapetition@yahoo.com, copy the following sentence into the email body; indicate whether you are a parent, concerned citizen, student, teacher, school administrator, etc. and enter in the subject line “REPA Petition”.

I HAVE READ THE PETITION FROM THE REPA COALITION OF EDUCATION GROUPS AND I DO NOT SUPPORT ADOPTION OF THE EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY RULES (REPA) AS PROPOSED.

PETITION IN RESPONSE TO REPA – RULES FOR EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY (DOCUMENT CREATED BY THE STAFF OF THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND APPROVED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT BY THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS ADVISORY BOARD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2009)

REPA COALITION OF EDUCATION GROUPS

The proposed Rules for Educator Preparation and Accountability (REPA) include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1) New teachers will have to know their content well, BUT *the amount of coursework in their content area they would be required to take may be reduced and their study and knowledge about children and learning AND their classroom experiences will be extremely limited.*
- 2) Teacher preparation programs and new teachers *WILL NOT BE HELD to ANY rigorous state or national standards.*
- 3) Individuals could become new teachers by ONLY participating in an on-line program, passing a test, AND *having no experience with kids or in classrooms.*
- 4) *Current licenses will be eliminated. Senior teachers may be required to take exams to renew their licenses. Some current teachers may NOT be able to renew their existing licenses and to keep their current classrooms/positions.*
- 5) *Individuals with no classroom experience could be licensed to become school superintendents to run school corporations.*

I DO NOT SUPPORT THE MAJORITY OF THE CURRENT PROPOSED RULES, given that THE PROPOSED CHANGES ARE NOT ROOTED IN BEST PRACTICES OR NATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED RESEARCH. The General Assembly should appoint a **Legislative Commission entitled Educator Preparation, Licensing and Accountability** to align with national standards.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE SURVEY ON SCHOOL START DATES

Senator Dennis Kruse has posted a survey on school start dates at <http://indianaeducationforum.com/opinion.html>. This is also a topic of interest to parents and schools across the state. If you would like your voice to be heard on this issue, please take the survey today and send an email to Senator Kruse about this issue. Here is information from this website and comments from Senator Kruse:

September 28, 2009 - Update

Thank you to everyone who has taken time to take the [first survey](#) we posted and to those of you who provided your comments to me. It has been interesting to learn what Hoosiers think of our schools and how you think they can be made better.

In reading your comments I drafted [another survey](#) based upon ideas voiced. I want to make sure everything I'm asking is clear and that everyone feels their points of view are expressed. This survey is a stand alone survey so that everyone who took the [first survey](#) can also take the [second survey](#).

I have also added [research](#) and data collections to the site, some provided by visitor to the site and other information gathered at my request. I hope you'll enjoy reading it.

Again, thank you to everyone who has taken the time to share their thoughts, concerns and ideas with me.

Part 2:

Thank you for visiting the new education web site. It is an honor to be named Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and Career Development and the Chair of the Interim Study Committee on Education. Education issues have always been important to me, as our success in education will decide our path for years to come.

I'm grateful to represent the needs of my constituents in District 14, as I cast my votes during session, and will continue to do so in my new position. But, to be successful in my new position I also need to understand the wants, needs and desires of the entire state on the issues that fall under our charge. Without understanding issues from a statewide perspective I won't be able to set agendas accordingly.

With that said, most know I have long been a supporter of a later school start date for Indiana public schools. I have authored legislation in the past. Similar laws have produced good results in other states and I feel the issue deserves a full debate.

But, my role as the Chairman of the Interim Study Committee on Education isn't to promote any set agenda. It is to carry out the thoughtful study of issues assigned by the Senate and House leadership. It is my job to do my best to make sure that both sides of the issue have an opportunity to present their research, data and thoughts. That is why we have developed this new web site – we want to give everyone a chance to have a voice, offer input and share data, research and experience.

I will be sharing the survey results with committee members, as well as all comments received. Please let me know what you think about the issue by taking the short survey and by sending us

your comments. This web site will be updated often so I encourage you to check back frequently. Thank you for taking the time to get involved,

- Senator Dennis Kruse -

**A REMINDER: INDIANA PTA OUTSTANDING WEBSITE AWARD - DEADLINE IS
NOVEMBER 15TH TO APPLY**

Indiana PTA wants to honor units and councils that take the time to have a website or page on a school corporation website that lets its members keep informed of the PTA happenings and contact information for their unit. To apply for the award, check out the information on your President's CD or go to the Indiana PTA website for details and the form you can submit for this award. The deadline to submit your website for this year's award is **November 15, 2009**. After you inform us of your web presence we will be checking your site periodically during the year to get updates and to monitor the criteria for the award. To submit your application for this award you can mail your application form to Kathie Green at 8510 Victoria Woods Place, Fort Wayne, IN. 46825 on or before November 15th.

NOVEMBER 15TH IS AN IMPORTANT DATE FOR INDIANA PTA AND YOUR PTA

There are several items due by November 15th to Indiana PTA to be a "Unit in Good Standing." Your November 15th Membership Dues Remittal must be postmarked by that date, you should have your Annual Financial Report turned in by then, your website award application is due on that date, and your Indiana tax forms (the NP-20) and IRS tax forms (990) are due then.

It is especially important to get your taxes turned in as some PTA units have gotten letters and their tax exemption and non-profit status could have been in jeopardy. If your unit chooses not to file their tax form (the 990), your PTA could receive penalties of \$20.00 per day for each day overdue. Penalties could reach \$10,000 or 5% of gross receipts for the year. If you have not filed the Indiana tax form, the NP-20, in over three years, your non-profit status may have been cancelled. We do not want this to happen to your unit. It is not as hard as you would think to get your taxes filed for your unit. You need to get this done and the November 15th date is just around the corner.

If you have questions on this, please contact your Field Service Representative or the Indiana PTA office as soon as possible so we can help you with this. Thank you to Julie French from the Indiana PTA office for reinforcing and getting more information on this to the board this weekend.

[PTA SUCCESS STORIES](#)

Your PTA does not have to wait to turn in their dues on November 15th. You can turn dues in now and that is one task off your plate. One PTA in the state has done that and turned in an incredible number for this year. **Stonybrook Middle School PTSA** turned in 495 members in September and coupled with 66 members turned in last June, has 561(!) members to date. That is a HUGE increase over the 262 members they turned in last year. Congratulations to Stonybrook PTSA! P.S.Can you let us all know how you did that? **WOW!**

Northwood Middle School PTSA has hit 100% staff as members of their PTSA!
Congratulations!

We would love to hear YOUR school's PTA events and membership stories! How's membership going at your school? Make sure to send in your school's story so that we can recognize your efforts here in the coming weeks!

REGION NEWS

See below for details for the last of the region trainings for this year.

MISHAWAKA TRAINING

The training has been scheduled for **Tuesday, October 20th** at 6:00 p.m. at the **Mishawaka PTA Council Meeting**. The meeting will be held at Mishawaka High School . Check back for more info as the date gets closer.

NATIONAL PTA UPDATE

MAKE HEALTHY CHOICES THIS NOVEMBER: PTA HEALTHY LIFESTYLES MONTH

Your family may have just settled into the groove of the school year, but consider whether some healthy changes could make that groove even better. Take a second look at what you put in your child's lunch box every day; could some easy substitutions make a more nutritious meal? How about your family's level of physical activity? Could you make time for a family walk after dinner, or a game of soccer in the park this weekend?

November is PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month, and we encourage you to take a look at the resources at www.PTA.org/GoodChoices to find some simple ways to be healthier each day. Also, plan to participate in your school's PTA Healthy Lifestyles celebration. You can offer your talents and time as a volunteer; or if something isn't already planned, why not take the opportunity to step up as a PTA leader? Planning tools and activity ideas can be found at www.PTA.org/HealthyLifestyles.

Stay tuned throughout November for stories about this year's PTA Healthy Lifestyles Award recipients. You'll hear about efforts to get dads and kids active together, a program that's teaching parents how to speak up for healthier school environments, and a special opportunity for families to share their favorite healthy breakfast dishes.

PTA HEALTHY LIFESTYLES WEBINAR

If you have an interest in the PTA Healthy Lifestyles program, we thought that you might also want to know about an upcoming event.

Kim Arasin, Georgia PTA Health & Wellness Chair and Whitney Meagher are joining Kate Link with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation to present a fantastic webinar that will inspire schools

to make health a priority in their fundraisers (full information below). I hope you will be able to participate! Please let me know if you need more information or if you have any questions.

Webinar: Raising Money While Promoting Health in Schools

- Tuesday, October 20 at 12:00-1:00 p.m. EDT
- Monday, October 26 at 8:30-9:30 p.m. EDT

This webinar will help you, as parents and caring adults, influence efforts to conduct health-promoting and profitable fundraisers in your children's schools. Explore guiding principles and alternatives to traditional candy and baked goods fundraisers.

Hear from others, including PTA leaders, who have stories to share or come ready to share an example of your success. Ask questions and gain ideas and resources for taking the next step in your school community. School staff and other interested parties are welcome to attend. (Co-sponsored by National PTA and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.) To register for the webinar, here is the link:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=b4GzIgtVfCQR1z9LtO4x8w_3d_3d.

GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN INDIANA PTA! WE ARE EXCITED FOR THE NEW IDEAS AND PROGRAMS THAT CAN HELP YOUR UNITS!

NOTE: How do I get my school featured in an Indiana PTA Good News Alert? If you have a great story that you would like us to use, contact us directly at the above email or phone number or let your Region VP know and we will highlight your PTA in one of our weekly emails! **Contact your Region VP at: Northwest: Dee Jones (ptadee@yahoo.com), Northeast: Julie Klingenberger (jklingenberger04@comcast.net), Central: Sharon Wise (swise36@comcast.net); Southern: Natalie Jones (twinmama02@yahoo.com).** Also don't forget to check out the Indiana PTA website at www.indianapta.org for some great information and the revamped National PTA website at www.pta.org. The new format for the "PTA Great Idea Bank" could also be really useful for your unit - it can also be found on the National PTA website.