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National PTA Reacts to the Draft Common Core State Standards

Statements can be attributed to National PTA President Charles J. "Chuck" Saylor

The National Parent Teacher Association (PTA[®]) supports the draft K-12 Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics. The draft standards are clear and will provide consistent expectations for all students, regardless of their zip code.

The standards, as articulated, will also increase rigor in English language arts and mathematics, and will support student readiness at each grade level:

The English language arts standards reflect the need for students to be 21st century literate; to possess the skills to think critically and understand informational texts and apply them across content areas. In addition, the infusion of media skills across the standards will help develop students into savvy consumers of information and users of technology.

The mathematics standards are specific and lay a solid foundation for students to be successful in college and career. National PTA applauds the standards writers that identified additional standards that go above and beyond the Common Core Standards for those students or schools that may choose to have a further focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

It is hoped that the adoption and implementation of the standards will provide new opportunities for parents and teachers to build collaborative partnerships to further support student learning at home and in school.

PTA members, families, parents and caregivers alike are encouraged to review the draft standards and to submit their feedback online at: <http://www.corestandards.org/>. Feedback is accepted until April 2, 2010.

About National PTA

National PTA[®] comprises millions of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of parent involvement in schools. PTA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit association that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health, and welfare of children and youth.