

MSDE Presentation

Gerrod Tyler - Free State PTA President

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ADVOCATE
GET INVOLVED

About Free State PTA

- ▶ Free State PTA is a state-level branch of National PTA, representing parents, teachers, students, and community members. Free State PTA works to promote the welfare of children and youth, fostering collaboration between parents, educators, and stakeholders to enhance education and well-being.
- ▶ Free State PTA engages in various activities, such as advocating for education-related policies, providing resources and programs for parents and teachers, supporting school improvement efforts, and organizing events that encourage family involvement in education.
- ▶ Free State PTA plays a significant role in connecting local PTAs across the state, amplifying their collective voice, and striving to create a positive impact on education and children's lives in Maryland.

Our Mission and Vision

Mission

Every Child. One Voice.

PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Values

Collaboration
Commitment
Diversity
Respect
Accountability



Our Board of Directors



Gerrod Tyler
President



Marla Posey-Moss
Vice President for Leadership



Traci Tatum
President-Elect



Sarika Corwin
Vice President for Membership



Ashley Cotton
Secretary



Reshma Sinanan-Hill
Director at Large



Bruce Butz
Treasurer



Katrina Jones
Director at Large

Our Organizational Goals



Goal # 1

Advocate for the needs of all parents, teachers, and students



Goal # 2

Train PTA Leaders to fulfill the mission and values of PTA



Goal # 3

Provide programs and resources that addresses the needs of our schools



Our Programs

School of Excellence

Reflections Arts Program

Family Reading Experience

STEM + Families

Healthy Lifestyles

PTA Connected



SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

The School of Excellence Program aims to:

- Provide a framework for PTAs to identify and implement best practices in family engagement to strengthen family -school partnerships.
- Build inclusive and welcoming school communities where all families contribute to enriching the educational experience and overall well -being for all students.
- Help PTAs attract new, action -oriented PTA members who want to focus on the issues that affect our children the most.
- Provide step -by -step guidance and networking opportunities for PTAs to gain support and feedback, identify and reach goals and earn recognition.
- Celebrate designees as national leaders in building effective family -school partnerships, which opens up additional honors and opportunities.



NATIONAL PTA[®] REFLECTIONS[®]



- Free State PTA has a long -standing commitment to arts education. The Reflections program provides opportunities for recognition and access to the arts which boost student confidence and success in the arts and in life.
- Each year, students in Pre -K through Grade 12 create original works of art in response to a student -selected theme.
- This 50+ year -old program helps them explore their own thoughts, feelings and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence and find a love for learning that will help them become more successful in school and in life.

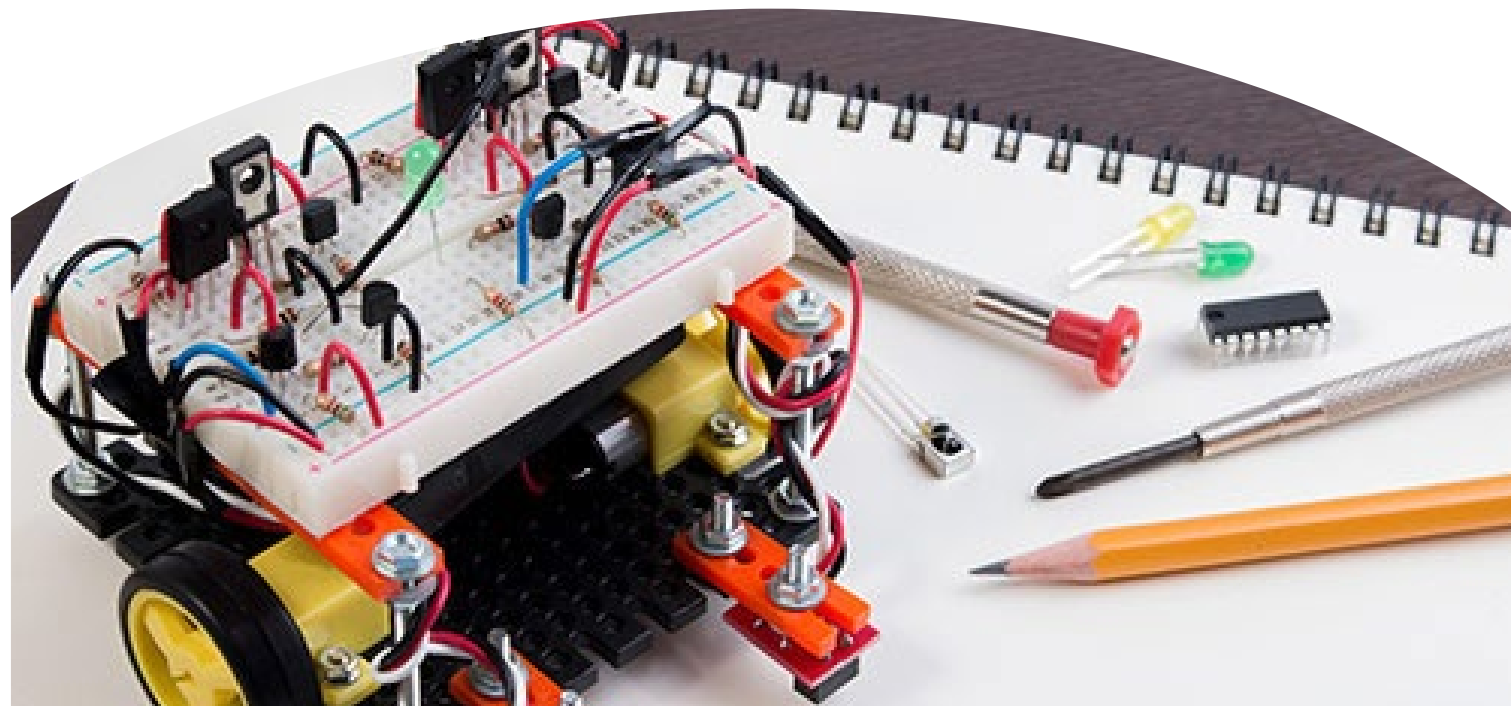
Family Reading Experience

Setting You Up for Success

Free State PTA is committed to helping families support their child's development of literacy skills and encourage a love of reading through access to books, particularly those that reflect the diversity of our world.

- Just like going for a jog exercises your cardiovascular system, reading regularly improves memory function by giving your brain a good workout.
 - Reading books about different people, places and experiences is critical to healthy child development and should be a priority, particularly in early literacy.
 - A parent's understanding of each element at play in their child's school reading life will support their personal growth, and their advocacy can serve the greater student community.
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National PTA's STEM + Families® program delivers access and hands-on exposure to science, technology, engineering and math to engage families and inspire students to pursue career opportunities in STEM fields.

PTA's vision is that all students have the family and community support needed to access and pursue STEM opportunities and careers.

We want to foster passion for science, technology, engineering, and math through fun activities and by involving families in these experiences together. Our STEM initiative will engage students, families, and communities in opportunities to explore... inspire... empower... and educate... STEM possibilities.



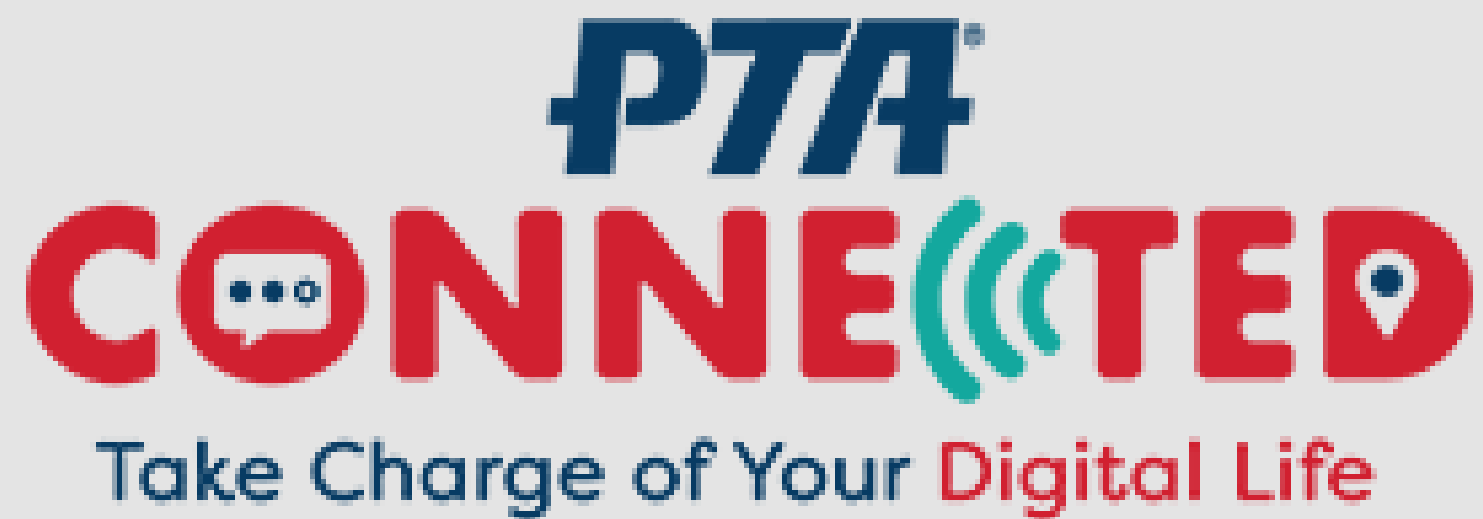
Free State PTA is committed to improving the overall health and well-being of families across the state because we know living a healthy lifestyle is a key component to our students' ability to thrive.

The Healthy Lifestyles initiative offers educational resources and engagement opportunities that empower students and families to make better-informed health decisions.

The PTA Healthy Lifestyles Program Provides:

- Resources to be physically healthy
- Tools to proactively strengthen our mental health and social and emotional well-being
- Information on how to support our planet and local communities
- Opportunities for peer to peer sharing throughout the year.





What does It Mean to be PTA Connected?

PTA Connected strives to help children act safely, responsibly and thoughtfully online.

With PTA Connected, you are:

- Connected to programs that create an informed space for families and communities to discuss digital safety in a judgement-free zone, helping to establish healthy digital behaviors and well-being.
- Connected with each other as we navigate and adapt together to build and grow as a digital community.
- Connected to best practices, expert resources and tools that provide parents with the information they are looking for on how to have conversations with their children about living a healthy and safe life online.



Our Legislative Agenda



1	Supporting policies making strong family involvement a requirement in all appropriate laws and programs. Schools should incorporate parent involvement into all aspects of educational programs and activities.
2	Improving public funding to equitably ensure high quality educational services for all special populations including Special Education, Gifted and Talented, English Language Learners, Economic Poverty, Homeless population, LGBTQ+, Military Families, Historically Underserved Populations, and other populations with special needs.
3	Supporting programs that ensure high quality educational services to children from early childhood through high school graduation, ensuring college and career opportunities that ready people for success in life within a global economy
4	Advocating for Compassionate youth justice practices that are equitable within the justice system and considers the mental development of youth.
5	Implementing evidence-based anti-bullying measures that include evidence-based restorative justice practices, social and emotional learning curriculum, and conflict management programs.
6	Ensuring children receive nutritional support they need with compassion and dignity, including universal meals.
7	Supporting programs that prepare professional educators to teach a diverse student population of varying ethnicity, socioeconomic status, English language facility, and giftedness, and inclusion of students with special needs in regular classrooms to the maximum extent possible.



Connect with us.

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Questions?

Thank You

