



everychild.one voice.

1747 Orlando Central Parkway  
Orlando, FL 32809  
[www.FloridaPTA.org](http://www.FloridaPTA.org)  
407-855-7604  
Fax: 407-240-9577

Jennifer "Jen" Martinez, President  
Carolyn Nelson-Goedert, President Elect  
Maxine Lewers, VP for Leadership Development  
Alvin Gainey, VP for Regions/Councils  
Naomi Frierson, VP for Membership Development  
Dr. Danielle Thomas, VP for Educational Development  
Khanh-Lien Banko, Treasurer  
Robin DeVault, Secretary

State Board of Education  
325 W. Gaines Street  
Florida Department of Education  
325 W. Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

The Honorable Richard Corcoran  
Commissioner of Education  
Florida Department of Education  
325 W. Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear State Board Members and Commissioner Corcoran,

Florida PTA advocates for all children. We have supported the CDC guidelines for Covid-19 protocols and urged our school districts to adhere to them, since the onset of this pandemic. We believe that the health and safety of children and the adults in the schools and community at large, is of paramount importance.

District school boards are closest to the community, which has access to them on a daily basis and can communicate their concerns and preferences directly to them. They have listened to the parents of the students they educate, at public meetings and through written communications. Their actions should reflect the will of the community.

Any decision taken by you, as a State Board of Education, to penalize districts for these actions, will only serve to adversely impact our children, not the policy makers. Students have already lost so much this past year. We urge you to provide them with as normal and stress free start to this school year as possible, under these new and challenging conditions resulting from the Delta variant.

Circumstances change as the science evolves and new data is available. The Delta variant poses a real danger to children and adults alike. We all want our children back in school, in person. To achieve this goal, the utmost safety precautions, to protect not only our children, but also the adults in the school community, need to be put in place. This will also serve to protect the community as large, as children go back to their homes and communities.

School boards have done this and prioritized the health and safety of our children. We appreciate and applaud them for their leadership and positive actions. Our PTAs will help them achieve the best outcomes possible in these trying times.

Please join them by placing the health and safety of children first.

Sincerely,

  
Jennifer "Jen" Martinez  
Florida PTA President