



A Family of Advocates for ALL Children!

LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

FLORIDA PTA LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
March 16, 2022

Our Mission

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



Our Purposes

- A. To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, places of worship, and throughout the community;
- B. To raise the standards of home life;
- C. To advocate for laws that further the education, physical and mental health, welfare, and safety of children and youth;
- D. To promote the collaboration and engagement of families and educators in the education of children and youth;
- E. To engage the public in united efforts to secure the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and social well-being of all children and youth; and
- F. To advocate for fiscal responsibility regarding public tax dollars in public education funding

ASSESSMENT & TESTING

Assessments should identify how instruction and learning can be improved by helping parents and teachers determine student academic needs.

- Florida PTA opposes the use of state or nationally mandated standardized tests as the sole criterion for measuring student or school progress.
- English Language Learner students face unique challenges with mandated testing processes. Additional funding should be allocated that would accommodate testing of English Language Learner students in their native language.
- There is significant impact of learning loss from extended time away from instruction (i.e. pandemic, natural disaster, etc.). Decision-makers at all levels should create policies and legislation that support and fund learning programs to supplement time lost from the inability to be in the classroom, with emphasis on reading and math for disadvantaged youth, as well as encourage partnerships that provide children and youth with supplemental learning activities and enrichment.

SCHOOL CHOICE

Private school choice programs have detrimental effects on public school systems. Public dollars must remain in public schools for the benefit of all students and the future of our nation. Florida PTA opposes vouchers in all forms and urges the Legislature to impose strict eligibility requirements on private institutions and non-public K-12 schools receiving public dollars. At a minimum, all educational institutions receiving public dollars, whether directly or indirectly, should be held to the same academic and accountability standards as public schools.

FUNDING

The state has a paramount duty to make adequate provision for the education of all children residing within its borders. Florida PTA urges the Legislature to fully fund strategies and programs that ensure the health, safety, and education of the children of Florida.

DYSLEXIA & OTHER SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITIES (SLDs)

Florida PTA recognizes that SLDs have significant educational implications and encourages local and state education agencies and institutions of higher education to require pre-service and ongoing - training on:

- dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia and other SLDs
- the warning signs of dyslexia
- appropriate instructional approaches
- the use of early screening for dyslexia
- successful approaches to communicating with families

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Carolyn Nelson-Goedert | President-Elect

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A Family of Advocates for ALL Children!

Florida PTA[®]

everychild.one voice.



2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



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JUVENILE JUSTICE

Florida PTA promotes programs that prevent youth from entering or remaining in the juvenile justice system, including:

- alternative dispute resolution techniques that provide a range of possible sanctions
- collaboration between law enforcement, the judicial system and child welfare agencies
- prevention of the incarceration of youth in adult facilities
- programs that prevent recidivism when youth leave the justice system

A disproportionate number of students of color, students with disabilities, and LGBTQIA+ students are routed into the juvenile justice system, creating a harmful school-to-prison pipeline. To address this, Florida PTA supports:

- training and regular professional development for school staff that addresses cultural competence, bias, and trauma-informed policies
- the recruitment of a diverse school workforce
- the adoption of racially and culturally diverse non-discriminatory instructional materials
- fully sustainable state and federal funding to support alternatives to exclusionary disciplinary measures
- effective research-based programs and policies that support equitable access to education and career opportunities.

GUN SAFETY

Florida PTA supports federal, state and local efforts to protect children and youth from gun violence by:

- restricting access to guns from persons who may endanger public safety.
- closing the “gun show loophole”
- implementing universal background checks
- providing all relevant records to the FBI’s National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)
- outlawing military style semi-automatic weapons.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Florida PTA urges the Legislature to support and fully fund high-quality childcare and preschool programs that are affordable and accessible, coordinated at all levels, and characterized by high standards for teaching, training, health, and safety.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Florida PTA supports legislation and programs that increase post-secondary participation by:

- assisting with secondary school completion and post-secondary enrollment through academic (including fine arts) services, family and student counseling, and college preparatory services—particularly programs that assist students with different learning styles, low income and who are disadvantaged.
- fostering an economically, culturally, and ethnically diverse student population by increasing federal grants and other forms of financial aid, simplifying the financial aid application process, and increasing access to information on financial assistance
- expanding access to in-state tuition levels

Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs provide a career pathway through education for students at all levels of academic achievement. Florida PTA supports the following assistance for these programs:

- increased funding, including registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs
- appropriate market-driven compensation for CTE instructors
- flexibility in the expansion of career education pathways.

PTA’s MISSION:

to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to **advocate for all children.**

HOUSING & FOOD SECURITY

Florida PTA urges policy makers to promote the well-being of students by:

- implementing and fully funding the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and ESEA provisions, which provide comprehensive services necessary to guarantee equal education opportunities to homeless students.
- serving good nutritious meals year-round.
- providing nutrition education.
- serving culturally diverse meals.

SCHOOL & STUDENT SAFETY

All students and educators have a right to attend schools that are safe and conducive to learning and achievement. Florida PTA supports legislation that creates a safe, supportive and accepting environment in schools, which includes:

- training for educators and other school-related professionals to support all students
- updated health education standards that address sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and recognition of LGBTQ individuals as a protected class
- legislation that recognizes LGBTQ as a protected group and addresses discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression

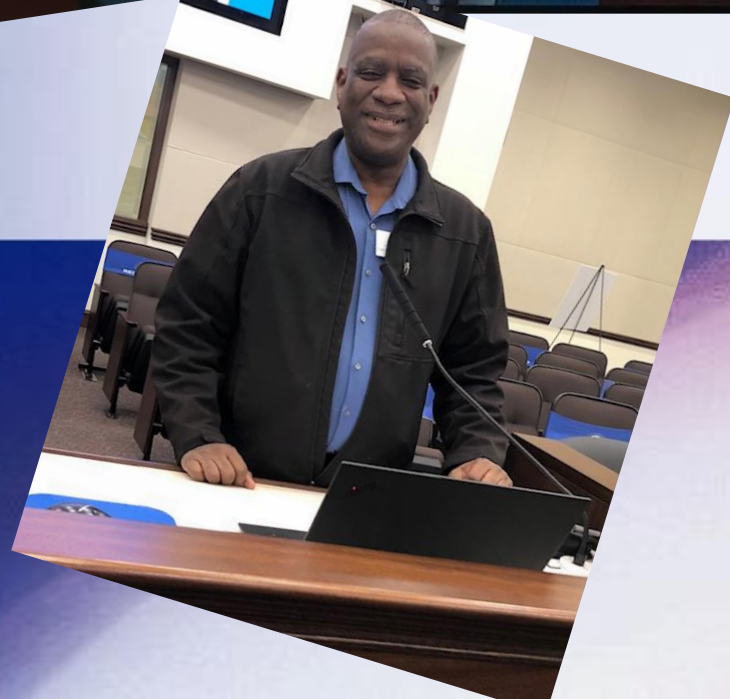
Florida PTA supports the strengthening of Title IX and other federal, state and local laws that identify, address the effects of, and prohibit sexual harassment and sexual violence impacting students. Awareness and prevention programs should include training on the responsibilities and rights of victims under Title IX and other similar laws and regulations.

Students, parents and families should be involved in the development, implementation and evaluation of all school safety plans, including emergency preparedness, crisis response, and threat assessment protocols, as well as school discipline policies and health and wellness support services. Laws should be monitored to assure adequate safety regulations for the protection of children and youth. Teachers and administrators should receive ongoing training to improve the understanding of child emotional and mental health needs that includes regular and timely communication with families about safety policies and procedures, encompassing school evacuation plans and reunification protocols.

MENTAL HEALTH

Florida PTA calls on state and local policymakers and school districts to employ evidence-based best practice ratios of school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, and school nurses who are most qualified to provide school-based mental health services. Necessary resources and supports should be provided to ensure students have access to proactive mental health services that incorporate a strong family engagement component.

FLORIDA PTA TESTIMONY



*Watch the
Legislature
or follow bills*



myfloridahouse.gov House Live streaming
flsenate.gov Senate Live streaming

or

The Florida Channel
<http://thefloridachannel.org/>



WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Sign up for Voter Voice
- Join FLPTA Advocacy Facebook page
- Subscribe to your representatives Newsletters
- Meet with your appointed/elected officials
- Attend County Delegation Meetings
- Attend trainings
- Join like minded non-profits to keep informed-LWV
- Bookmark FLPTA Website: <https://floridapta.org/>
- Bookmark County Council Website

SB 148/HB 7 INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM 1/2

Makes Critical Race Theory training an "unlawful employment practice" for private businesses and public. It would allow parents to file lawsuits against school districts they suspect of teaching CRT; aka "STOP WOKE ACT" Stop Wrongs Against Our Kids & Employees; woke- to stay alert to injustice in society,

CRT states that U.S. social institutions (criminal justice system, education system, labor market, housing market, and healthcare system) are laced with racism embedded in laws, regulations, rules, and procedures that lead to differential outcomes by race. CRT does not attribute racism to white people as individuals or even to entire groups of people.

OPPOSE, Alert Sent

National PTA Position Statement on Say Their Names: Addressing Institutional or Systemic Racism

SB 148/HB 7 INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM 1/2

National PTA Position Statement on Inclusive Curriculum in K12 Schools

National PTA Position Statement on Elements of Comprehensive Health Programs

FPTA's Resolution on Infant and Maternal Mortality and the Connection to Racism specifically alludes to the concept of systemic racism.

Senate, *passed* 24-15

House, *passed* 74-31

Enrolled [ready to be sent to the governor] 03/10/2022

SB 1808/HB 1355 IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

This bill codifies the Governor EO that refuses to grant licenses to or renew licenses for agencies that house undocumented children. The bill also targets public carriers (transportation) that transport undocumented persons into Florida.

OPPOSE, Alert Sent

[National PTA Position Statement on Rights and Services for Undocumented Children](#)

Senate, *passed 24-15*

House, *passed 77-42*

Enrolled 03/09/2022

SB 1834/HB 1557 PARENTAL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION

Requires district school boards to adopt procedures that comport with provisions of law for notifying student's parent of specified information; prohibiting a school district from encouraging classroom discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity in primary grade levels or in a specified manner; creates basis for lawsuit. "Don't Say Gay"

OPPOSE, Alert Sent

<https://youtu.be/IBlwhYcZrYQ>

NPTA Position Statements: on Parental Involvement in Site-Based Shared Decision Making; on Shared Responsibility in Educational Decision-Making; on Family Engagement

Senate, *passed 22-17*

House, *passed 69-47*

Enrolled 03/08/2022

SB 1300 /HB 1467 DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARDS

- Establishing 12 year term limits for school board members [we have no position statement];
- Schools would have to publish “in a searchable format” a list of all materials in the school Bill works to integrate “public participation” in the material selection process for school districts, meaning that parents *and community members* would be more included when school districts are considering new books and instructional materials.

OPPOSE, Alert Sent

National PTA Position Statement on Family Engagement; on Shared Responsibility in Educational Decision-Making

House, passed 78-40

Senate, passed 79-41

Enrolled 03/10/2022

SB 1048/HB 1193 Student Assessments

1/2

This bill adds state-mandated and state-created testing under the guise of fall and mid-year progress monitoring to inform instruction. It retains non-federally mandated testing (EOC and Civics exams) as part of the accountability system, and likewise preserves the current high-stakes consequences of student outcomes for students, teachers, schools, and districts. It codifies how parents and families will be informed of student results.

Neutral

SB 1048/HB 1193 Student Assessments

2/2

National PTA Position Statement on Assessment [Amended 2021] supports annual state assessments to inform and support instruction in math and reading in grades 3-8 and once in high school, as well as grade span testing in science; urges state accountability systems to provide for multiple measures of student growth and achievement; discourages redundant or high-stakes testing; urges prompt and complete communication with parents and families regarding test purposes, formats, uses, and results.

Senate, *passed* 38-0

House, *passed* 83-31

Approved by the Governor 03/15/2022

HB 5001/SB 2500

APPROPRIATIONS

- 12 of Florida's 67 school districts, sought legal relief from a July 30 executive order and an August 6 emergency rule by the Department of Health expressly banning a mask requirement and required masks based on local health conditions and for the purpose of protecting students and staff..
- The House budget punishes these 12 school districts by deducting \$200 million from their 2022-2023 funding. districts made their decisions
- The House budget did not include the federal money.

OPPOSE, Alert Sent

- *NPTA Position* PTA members, we advocate for the education, health, safety, and well-being of ALL children with full funding.

HB 5001/SB 2500

APPROPRIATIONS

2/2

HOUSE, *passed* 102-14 and Governor came out in favor

SENATE, *passed* 36-0 to send 5001 to budget conference

Budget Conference

Federal money included

All districts getting same

12 districts likely not eligible for Recognition reward \$

- We went to work! 39 legislative offices in 2 days

Enrolled 03/16/2022

SB 390/HB 235 Restraint of students with disabilities in public schools

Prohibiting school personnel from using mechanical restraint on students with disabilities; provides exceptions.

Support

NPTA Position statement: support legislation that emphasize the use of positive or non-aversive interventions limiting the use of restraint and seclusion on students; that it only be used as a last resort in emergency* situations; that restraint interventions shall cease as soon as the immediate danger of physical harm ceases to exist.

SENATE *passed 38-0*

HOUSE *passed 115-0*

Enrolled 03/04/2022

SB 1060/HB 461 Bright Futures, Student Service

Authorizes student's service requirements for award under FL Bright Futures Scholarship Program to be paid rather than volunteer; authorizes, rather than requiring, student to identify specified interest or develop plan for his or her service requirements.

Support

NPTA Position Statement on High School Graduation, College Preparation, and Access: supports legislation and programs intended to increase postsecondary participation through assisting students' secondary school completion and postsecondary enrollment

House *passed* 119-0

Senate, *passed*; 35-3

ENROLLED 03/10/2022

HB 1421/SB 802 - School Safety

Revises drills, family reunification plans, threat assessment teams, safe-school officers, DOE responsibilities, & Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool.

SUPPORT

PTA purpose: advocate for laws that further the education, physical and mental health, welfare, and safety of children and youth. *Leadership Bill.

PTA mission: promote the safety and well-being of all children and youth.

HOUSE *passed 115-0*

SENATE, *passed 39-0*

ENROLLED 03/03/2022

HB 1577/SB 1708 Child Welfare

- establishes liaisons to support youth experiencing homelessness in college
- extends the Keys to Independence program to unaccompanied homeless youth (paying driver education, license, and insurance costs)
- waives birth certificate fees for unaccompanied homeless youth
- requires school districts to provide unaccompanied homeless youth with wallet cards summarizing their rights and confirming that they have been identified as experiencing homelessness.

Support

SUPPORTING FLORIDA'S HOMELESS STUDENTS (2014) Florida PTA to aid in the education of homeless children by providing comprehensive services necessary to guarantee equal educational opportunities.

House, passed 117-0

Senate, passed 36-0

ENROLLED 03/04/2022

HB 277/SB 638 EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC EDUCATION INCENTIVE PILOT PROGRAM

Extends expiration date of Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Program

Support

National PTA supports programs that promote public awareness of the arts and arts education and the integration of the arts in school curriculum.

HOUSE passed 112-0

SENATE *passed*, 37-0

ENROLLED 03/05/2022

HB 195/SB 342 - Juvenile Diversion Program Expunction

Requires FDLE to expunge the nonjudicial arrest record of certain minors who successfully complete a diversion program for specified felony offenses, rather than only for misdemeanor offenses; authorizing a minor to lawfully deny or fail to acknowledge certain information.

SUPPORT

NPTA Every child should have the opportunity to reach their full potential—even if they make a mistake while growing up. Second chances are important as children learn and grow into adulthood.

HOUSE, *passed* 112-0

SENATE, *passed* 37-0

ENROLLED 03/05/2022

HB 197/ SB 344 Public Records/Nonjudicial Arrest Record of a Minor

Provides exemption from public records requirements for nonjudicial record of arrest of minor who has successfully completed diversion program; provides for retroactive application.

SUPPORT

NPTA Every child should have the opportunity to reach their full potential—even if they make a mistake while growing up. Second chances are important as children learn and grow into adulthood.

HOUSE, passed 112-0

SENATE, passed 37-0

ENROLLED 03/05/2022

other **BILLS THAT HAVE PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS AND MAY NOW BE SENT TO THE GOVERNOR 1/4**

HB 105 Regulation of Smoking by Counties and Municipalities

- PTA supported this bill as it goes to the overall health of a child to **restrict smoking** within the boundaries of public beaches and public parks.

HB 173 Care of Students with Epilepsy or Seizure Disorders

- PTA supported this bill, which provides for care in the IEP plan, pursuant to our statement addressing comprehensive health services for children.

HB 225 Charter School Charters

- PTA was neutral as to this bill in that our position statement on charter schools is mute on the issue of turn-around time for consideration of requests for charter school consolidation or changes in the terms of charter school contracts.

SB 236 Children with Developmental Delays

- PTA supported this bill which expanded the eligibility criteria of students qualifying for services, thereby allowing more children to reach their potential.

other BILLS THAT HAVE PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS AND MAY NOW BE SENT TO THE GOVERNOR 2/4

SB 292 Newborn Screenings

- PTA supported this bill based on our resolution to promote services for individuals and families to address infant and maternal mortality. The bill provided for an additional screening for congenital cytomegalovirus.

SB 430 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children

- PTA supported this bill pursuant to a NPTA Resolution recommending the adoption and utilization of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children by state and local education agencies.

HB 461 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program Student Service Requirements

- PTA supported this bill based on a NPTA Resolution to promote increased student access to in-state tuition levels, which this bill does by allowing students to count a designated number of paid work hours as community service hours in qualifying for state post-secondary scholarships.

other BILLS THAT HAVE PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS AND MAY NOW BE SENT TO THE GOVERNOR 3/4

SB 722 Education for Student Inmates

- PTA supported this bill to improve student inmate education based on NPTA resolutions on High School Graduation, College Preparation and Access and on Career and Technical Education.

SB 758 Education Charter School Authorizers

- PTA opposed this bill as it creates a statewide charter school authorizer which runs counter to our position statement supporting school district authority and accountability.

HB 817 Emergency Medical Care and Treatment to Minors Without Parental Consent

- PTA was neutral on the bill which authorizes physicians to provide emergency medical care or treatment to a minor without parental consent. Neither FLPTA nor NPTA has a resolution or position statement that addresses this matter.

other BILLS THAT HAVE PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS AND MAY NOW BE SENT TO THE GOVERNOR 4/4

HB 899 Mental Health of Students

- PTA supported this bill, which requires charter schools as well as traditional public schools to collect data regarding involuntary examinations and which requires district school boards to designate a mental health coordinator, pursuant to our statement addressing comprehensive health services for children.

SB 1054 Financial Literacy Instruction in Public Schools

- PTA supported this bill based on a NPTA resolution for an increased emphasis on the teaching of science, mathematics, and technology to assure that all youth acquire the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in a global economy.

Voter Voice=WHEN

- Florida PTA
 - <https://floridapta.org/voter-voice-legislative/>



- National PTA
 - <https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/take-action/sign-up-for-alerts>



The logo features the letters 'PTA' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font with a slight italicization. A registered trademark symbol (®) is positioned to the upper right of the 'A'. Below this, the tagline 'everychild. one voice.' is written in a smaller, blue, serif font, also italicized, with another registered trademark symbol (®) at the end. The text is centered within a white circle that has a subtle drop shadow, set against a dark blue square background. The entire graphic is framed by a white border on the left and bottom, and a blue and red abstract background on the right.

PTA[®]

everychild. one voice.[®]

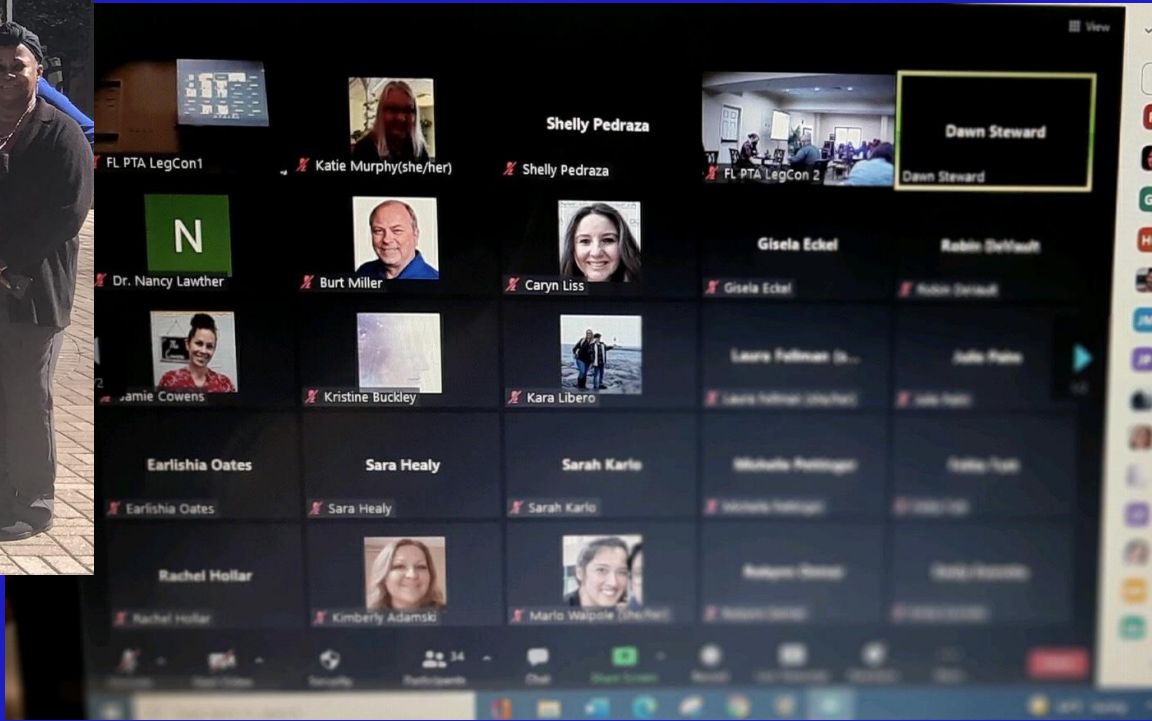
Our Mission

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



**TURN PASSION INTO
ACTION**

NOW MORE THAN EVER



**THANK YOU FOR
ATTENDING
OUR HYBRID
LEGCON 2022**

**ATTEND
LEGCON 2023
TALLAHASSEE, FL**

FUTURE Presentations:

April 19, 2022

Update: The Legislative Session
and the Governor

March 16, 2022

Legislative Session Update

Past Presentations:

February 16, 2022

Mid-Legislative Session Update

December 8, 2022

Pre-Legislative Session Update

November 2021

Resolutions & the Legislative Process

October 6, 2021

What is LegCon?

March 8, 2021

LegCon Webinar

October 14, 2020

PTA Advocacy

October 7, 2020

What is a Resolution?

September 23, 2020

Voter Engagement and Elections

What Can PTA Do?



<https://floridapta.org/get-engaged-wednesdays/>

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www.floridapta.org/advocacy

#FLPTActionow

**Thank you for all you do for PTA
and for the children everywhere!**



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