



Opportunity School District Georgia PTA Position Statement

While the Georgia PTA recognizes a need for state assistance for chronically low-performing schools, Senate Bill 133, the “Opportunity School District,” does not align with legislative priorities or the “Operation Ready to Learn” resolution passed by the delegates of the Georgia PTA.

The 2015-2016 Georgia PTA legislative priorities are to *support efforts to increase state spending to education and use of public funds for public schools only, and to support constitutional authority of local school boards of education to control or manage schools in their system.* The Georgia PTA strongly supports local control of public education and adequate state funding for public schools, and the Georgia PTA’s mission is to engage parents in the education of their children. “Operation Ready to Learn,” a resolution passed by Georgia PTA delegates at the 2015 convention, resolved to assist schools in utilizing community resources, to assist parents in advocating for the needs of their children, and to encourage local schools to improve access to school resources for families. The “Operation Ready to Learn” resolution advocates for parents to collaborate with state and local leaders to increase student achievement and equity for all children.

Senate Bill 133, the “Opportunity School District,” calls for an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Georgia that would allow for the creation of a statewide school district under the control of a Governor-appointed, state-level Superintendent. This amendment to our Constitution would remove control of local public schools; strip funding for local public schools; restrict community access to public facilities, instructional materials, and school equipment.

Because the “Opportunity School District,” as passed by the 2015 Georgia General Assembly, does not align with the Georgia PTA legislative priorities or the Georgia PTA “Operation Ready to Learn” resolution, the Georgia PTA does not support the Constitutional Amendment as currently created by Senate Bill 133.