

Baltimore County Council

PTA[®]

everychild.one voice.[®]

PTA Council of Baltimore County, Inc. | Established 1950

<https://www.bcptacouncil.org> Free State PTA <https://www.fspta.org> National PTA: <https://www.pta.org>

NOVEMBER 2025 | BULLETIN

President's Letter

Thanks to the PTA leaders who attended our September 25 **Fall Workshops and General Meeting!** The turnout was excellent. We hope you learned a lot!

Free State PTA has recently offered several virtual Financial and Boardsmanship Trainings. If the required officers didn't attend (no need to attend if you took part in our in-person training on 9/25), watch for Council training to be offered soon. Here are details on who needs to take this mandatory training:

- **financial training for Presidents and Treasurers**
- **boardsmanship training for Presidents and One Other Officer**

Thanks to the Presidents and designates who attended our September and October **BCPS-PTA Leadership Roundtables!** We're grateful that Superintendent Dr. Rogers and Chief of Staff Ms. Charley-Greene continue to take time from their very busy schedules to meet with us monthly! Thank you to PTA Council's BCPS Liaison Sue Hahn, Office of Family and Community Engagement Supervisor, for facilitating these valuable sessions.

The next roundtable will take place on **November 12th at 6:30pm**. Presidents should watch for an invitation.

Thank you for all you do to help "make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children."

Feel free to contact me or any of our board members for ANY HELP YOU NEED!

Leslie Weber, President, president@bcptacouncil.org, 410.227.7631

Every child. One voice.

PTA is HERE FOR IT! During American Education Week (November 17-21, 2025) and Beyond



PTA is HERE FOR IT! Attendance Challenge!

This easy-to-run program supports the **BCPS attendance-awareness campaign -- HERE FOR IT! Attending today to achieve tomorrow.**

Because **PTA advocates for all children** and promotes family engagement, it's fitting for PTAs to encourage consistent attendance so students receive the support they need to learn and thrive.

DETAILS on the attendance challenge are in the FLYER POSTED ON OUR HOMEPAGE, www.bcptacouncil.org. The challenge runs from 11/17 to 11/30.

BACKGROUND:

American Education Week (AEW) was first celebrated in 1921, a partnership between the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Legion. In 1938, National PTA became a co-sponsor of this annual opportunity to celebrate public education **every year in an intentional manner**. American Education Week is always celebrated the week prior to the week of Thanksgiving.

Here are details from NEA on AEW 2025: <https://www.nea.org/AmericanEducationWeek>

We recognize that AEW is a long-standing element of PTA programming and that your programming may have to change this year due to a BCPS focus shift. Because of this, we're offering an opportunity to celebrate your school, PTA, and public education in general in a different way. You can easily incorporate this concept into your existing plans OR it can be your main programming piece for AEW 2025. PTAs' participation, of course, is voluntary.

Questions? Contact Ramona Basilio, Chair of PTA Council's Family, School, and Community Partnerships Committee at partnerships@bcptacouncil.org.





Leaders' To-Do List NOVEMBER

- IRS 990 filing due 11/15
- American Education Week, 11/17-21; read above about our AEW Attendance Challenge!
- Sell memberships at dues level(s) decided upon by your board
- Share officer contact info with Free State PTA and PTA Council

DECEMBER

- Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act filing due December 30

Reminder: Did You Take Care of These Items in OCTOBER?

Council dues due, \$50 per unit, were due on 10/1. The invoice is here:

<https://bcptacouncil.org/resources/finances/council-dues>

Please remit your unit's dues (\$50 total amount due) as soon as possible. THANK YOU!

Mail check to:

PTA Council Treasurer Jayne Lee
2311 Sugarcone Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21209

If you have questions, email
treasurer@bcptacouncil.org

Annual financial review due 10/30. This is your unit's financial review of its 2024-25 books. Please upload a copy of the review and report (a memo explaining the review) to Givebacks.
<https://bcptacouncil.org/audits/>

First National PTA/Free State PTA membership dues payment to Free State PTA by 10/30. This is one payment of \$5.25/member/year. More information is here:
<https://bcptacouncil.org/resources/membership>

Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act Filing by 12/30 to Fundraise Legally in MD!

- check your status here:
<https://sos.maryland.gov/Charity/Pages/default.aspx>
 - Charities Division -> Search Charities -> your EIN
- start filing your annual update here:
<https://onestop.md.gov>
- read filing instructions here (pay attention to page 6 and beyond):
<https://sos.maryland.gov/Documents/CharityAnnualRegistrationUserGuide.pdf>
- see <https://bcptacouncil.org/charitable-organizations-requirement>

PROPER USE OF PTA FUNDS

PTAs are often asked to spend their funds on items not considered appropriate under Free State PTA financial guidelines. Review guidelines here, beginning on Page 63:

https://www.fspta.org/files/ugd/024331_739b6fe4d3e84c88ad9cfa0c3e4da460.pdf

IRS 990 Filing Due on 11/15 to Keep Your Non-Profit Status!

Your federal tax filing is due by 11/15 for the fiscal year 7/1/24 to 6/30/25. Most units (annual gross receipts of \$50,000 and below) can file the 990-N.

- Information and filing instructions (including how to access the IRS filing portal if e-filing the IRS 990-N postcard): <https://bcptacouncil.org/federal-taxes>
- Step-by-step IRS 990-N filing instructions:
<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5248.pdf>

The 990-EZ can be filed for units with gross receipts under \$200,000. The IRS FAQs is here:
<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/annual-electronic-notice-form-990-n-for-small-organizations-faqs-when-to-file>

If your filing is rejected because you didn't submit the Delaware PTA Group Exemption Consent Form, see guidance here: <https://bcptacouncil.org/federal-taxes> AND reach out for our help!

Free State PTA Standards Of Affiliation (SoA)

In addition to paying member dues and providing officer contact information to FSPTA, you must take care of the following (*details on how to handle all of these requirements are on our website's UNIT COMPLIANCE tab*):

- **BYLAWS:** Bylaws need to be reviewed at least every 3 years and submitted to FSPTA for approval. If you need to do this, use the template here: <https://www.fspta.org/bylaws>
- **FINANCIAL REVIEW (AUDIT):** All PTAs must conduct an annual financial review (due 10/30). Refer to the Free State PTA Financial Guide for a sample report.
- **INSURANCE:** Every PTA unit in Maryland must have insurance coverage through AIM. Enrollment forms were emailed to all PTAs. Coverage ended 6/30/25. See the PTA Council website's Finances/Insurance section for details.
- **IRS 990:** Every PTA must file annually by 11/15. If annual gross income was \$50,000 or less, you can submit the 990N e-postcard.
- **MARYLAND CHARITABLE SOLICITATIONS ACT UPDATE:** As a charitable organization soliciting in Maryland, your unit must file documents with the Office of the Secretary of State. Registration is required prior to the commencement of solicitations (for new units) and an annual update is required, due 12/30.
- **INCORPORATION/MD PERSONAL PROPERTY REPORT:** All local PTAs must be incorporated in Maryland. To maintain your incorporation status, a Personal Property Annual Report must be filed by April 15 each year regardless of whether your PTA owns any property or not. Check your status at: www.dat.state.md.us. If your unit is not incorporated or the incorporation needs to be revived, contact us.

For all shared documents, be sure to keep copies for yourself!

FSPTA requires PTA units to submit SoA documents via Givebacks!

Unit Compliance: Check Your Status!

We know that running a unit/non-profit is hard work and we're here to help! Track your status in terms of FSPTA requirements, MD corporate requirements, and IRS requirements.

<https://bcptacouncil.org/pta-unit-compliance>

Visit our [Resources Section](#) to access our yearly planning list to remind you of key dates and tasks.

Get Your Kit! Available from www.pta.org:

We strongly encourage local leaders to create a profile at www.pta.org to access the great digital resources in the National PTA's Local Leader Kit!

You'll learn SO MUCH about running your unit!

[Local Leader Kit | National PTA](#)

[Member Benefits - About PTA | National PTA](#)

Resources for Families Affected by Federal Government Shutdown and SNAP

Please share this with your families and membership: [BCPS has compiled resources](#) for families suffering from the federal government shutdown and lack of SNAP benefits. The page includes links, phone numbers, and resources for food and nutrition, community schools, homelessness, food banks, and more.

Join A National Study on School Cell Phone Policies

Dr. Angela Duckworth (author of *Grit*) invites you to join a national study on school cell phone policies. The [5-minute national survey](#) allows you to share your views on the best policies to handle student cell phones.



Membership

FSPTA recommends that your unit use Givebacks, which allows you to sell memberships online, communicate with members, create a directory, sell merchandise, create a newsletter, AND have members print their own membership cards.

If you need access to Givebacks, contact Free State PTA at info@fspta.org.

Member dues for each unit are decided upon at a board meeting. Different levels can be set (for example, \$10/member; \$6/staff member (to encourage the home-school partnership); and \$25/business membership). Just remember when setting your dues that:

- National PTA dues are \$3.25/member
- Free State PTA dues are \$2.00/member

Each unit remits dues monthly in the amount of \$5.25/member to National PTA and Free State PTA (one payment). Use Givebacks or the form found here to pay dues:

<https://www.fspta.org/membership>

Visit the Membership Section of the PTA Council website for info, tips, and sample easy-to-fill-out membership form (having a form is recommended): <http://www.bcptacouncil.org/resources/membership>

Visit the National PTA website (pta.org) for Membership Campaign info:

[Membership Resources - Run Your PTA | National PTA](#)

[Member Benefits - About PTA | National PTA](#)

Oregon Ridge Nature Center Field Trip Transportation Grants

The Friends of Oregon Ridge is offering a grant opportunity for qualifying Baltimore County public schools. The grant provides a maximum reimbursement of \$500 per bus for a maximum of two buses for transportation to one field trip program at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center.

Only Title I schools are eligible for this transportation grant. There is a limited number of bus grants for schools that meet the listed criteria. Funds are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis until exhausted. Application submission began on September 1, 2025.

<https://www.friendsoforegonridge.org/oregon-ridge-nature-center-school-field-trip>

AFCEA Central Maryland Chapter Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) Scholarships

Applications due January 20, 2026

Apply here: <https://afcea.eformsolutions.com>

Questions?: Email scholarships@centralmd.afceachapters.org

Provide Feedback on the BCPS Operating Budget--Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Priorities Survey

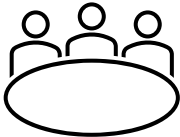
As BCPS works on developing the superintendent's recommended operating budget for Fiscal Year 2026 over the next few months, they are seeking specific feedback on what areas the community believes should be prioritized.

In addition to a [series of community meetings](#), BCPS is also seeking feedback via [this survey](#). Comments will be accepted until November 19, 2024.

Congratulations! We're proud to announce that two of our board members were selected to serve on the Superintendent's Stakeholder Achievement Advisory Group! They are: • Beth Jarrett, Central-Area VP and Advocacy and Legislation Committee Chair • Erica Williams, Southwest-Area VP	Nominating Committee Vacancies! PTA Council has 2 vacancies on our Nominating Committee: • Northwest-area representative • Southeast-area representative Please fill out this form if you're interested in serving: https://bcptacouncil.org/committees/balt-co-pta-council-committee-interest-form
--	---



2025-26 PTA COUNCIL CALENDAR

General Meetings/Special Events • January 29, 2026: Virtual Meeting/Program, 7pm • March 22, 2026: Reflections Ceremony, location TBA, 2-4pm • March 26, 2026: Virtual Meeting, Slate of Officers Presentation, Health & Safety Program, 7pm • April 30, 2026: Virtual Meeting, Elections, Program, 7pm • June 8, 2026: Leadership Training, Scholarships and State Reflections Winners Presentations, location TBA, 7pm	Board of Directors Virtual Meetings First Thursday of the month at 7pm (if interested in attending, please request a link): • 2025: ○ December 4 • 2026: ○ January 8 ○ February 5 ○ March 5 ○ April 16 ○ May 7 ○ June 4 
Reflections 2027-2028 Theme Search: Deadline Extended to 11/14/25 Go to fspta.org/reflections to download the Entry Form and a list of previous themes, then submit your completed form to Reflections Coordinator Carol Ellis at cellis@fspta.org. Students from PTAs in good standing are welcome to submit one or more entries. Theme submissions must be unique and not duplicate a previous theme.	Save The Dates For PTA Advocacy! Free State PTA's Advocacy Day in Annapolis: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 - details to follow! National PTA's Legislative Conference (LegCon), Alexandria, VA, March 2-4, 2026 - registration opens 11/13/25

PTA Council & Free State PTA Need Officer Contact Information:

President, VP(s), Secretary(ies), and Treasurer

Unit (School) Name ~ Position ~ Name ~ Email ~ Home Address ~ Phone

Share with PTA Council: [PTA Council 2025-26 Officer Contact Information Form \(Google doc\)](#)

Share with Free State PTA by entering the information into your Givebacks account.

Sharing your Officer Contact Information is a Free State PTA Standards of Affiliation (SoA) requirement.

NOTE: If you're a BCPS employee, please provide a personal email since bcps.org emails frequently bounce back. Thank you!

PTA Council Leadership Contacts

President: Leslie Weber, president@bcptacouncil.org

Area VP Central: Beth Jarrett, avpcentral@bcptacouncil.org

Area VP: Northeast: Katie Fetchik, avpnortheast@bcptacouncil.org

Area VP Northwest: Ryan Coleman, avpnorthwest1@bcptacouncil.org

Area VP Northwest: Antoinette Barber, avpnorthwest2@bcptacouncil.org

Area VP Southeast: Will Feuer, avpsoutheast@bcptacouncil.org

Area VP Southwest: Erica Williams, avpsouthwest@bcptacouncil.org

Secretary: Andra Broadwater, secretary@bcptacouncil.org

Treasurer: Jayne Lee, treasurer@bcptacouncil.org

Committees:

Advocacy & Legislation: Beth Jarrett, legislation@bcptacouncil.org

Communications: Katie Fetchik, communications@bcptacouncil.org

Curriculum and Instruction: Carrie Horwitz Lang, curriculum@bcptacouncil.org

Extension: Emory Young, extension@bcptacouncil.org

Family, School, and Community Partnerships: Ramona Basilio, partnerships@bcptacouncil.org

Health & Safety: Andra Broadwater, health@bcptacouncil.org

Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion: Edwin Perez, diversity@bcptacouncil.org

Multilingual Community Partnership: Edwin Perez, eperez@bcps.org

Nominating Committee: Chair TBA (committee members are listed on our website)

Reflections: Jess Roosth, reflections@bcptacouncil.org

Scholarships: Angie Obaza, awards@bcptacouncil.org

Representatives:

Baltimore County Student Councils: TBA

Baltimore County Public Schools: Sue Hahn, shahn2@bcps.org

Teachers' Association of Baltimore County: Lloyd Allen, llallen@mseane.org



Contact Us!



PTA Council of Baltimore County, Inc.
c/o Sue Hahn, BCPS Office of Family and Community Engagement
6901 N. Charles St., Greenwood Campus Building A
Towson, Maryland 21204

www.bcptacouncil.org