

Baltimore County Council



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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>

JANUARY 2025 | BULLETIN

President's Letter

Happy 2025! We hope you had a restful break and are ready to jump in to the second half of the school year!

First, some finance-related housekeeping. We hope that your unit filed its **IRS 990 form** (due on November 15) and **Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act filing** (due on December 31). Both are crucial to keeping your corporation "in good standing." Please reach out if you need help!

At our January Board Meeting, we welcomed back our past Curriculum and Instruction Committee Chair Carrie Horwitz Lang, an education professor at Loyola University! She was a true asset to the Council during her recent tenure and we're thrilled that her schedule allows her to join us again.

We're excited to announce that our next **General Meeting** will be held on Thursday, January 30 at 7pm via Zoom. After a brief business meeting, we'll receive a Legislative Update from PTA Council Advocacy and Legislation Committee Chair Beth Jarrett and a presentation/workshop on increasing membership and outreach. We're thrilled that new County Executive (and past PTA leader!) Kathy Klausmeier will join us and offer remarks!

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!**

Sincerely, President Leslie Weber, president@bcptacouncil.org 410-227-7631

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Leaders' To-Do List

JANUARY

- Attend Council General Meeting, 1/30/25 7pm via Zoom
- Pay FSPTA and NPTA dues
- If not paid already, pay Council dues
- If not yet done, file 990 and MD Charitable Solicitations Form (for help, contact Treasurer Jayne Lee; forms must be filed to retain status as active PTA and fundraise in Maryland)
- Review bylaws to determine date and process for selection of local PTA Nominating Committee if holding elections in spring
- Start thinking about filing MD Annual Report and/or Personal Property Tax Return (see <http://bcptacouncil.org/personal-property-taxes/> for details)

FEBRUARY

- Pay FSPTA and NPTA membership dues
- 990 form due if extension was filed in November

Standards Of Affiliation (SoA)

In addition to paying member dues and providing officer contact information to Free State PTA (FSPTA), you must take care of the following:

- ✓ **BYLAWS:** Bylaws need to be reviewed at least every 3 years and submitted to FSPTA for approval. Use the template here: <https://www.fspta.org/bylaws>.
- ✓ **FINANCIAL REVIEW (AUDIT):** All PTAs must conduct an annual financial review (due 10/30) and submit a copy to FSPTA through Givebacks. Refer to Free State PTA Financial Guide (<https://bcptacouncil.org/maryland-ptas-cash-encounters>) in the Finances section of our website for a sample report.
- ✓ **INSURANCE:** Every PTA unit in MD must have insurance coverage through AIM. Enrollment forms were emailed to all PTAs. Coverage ended 6/30/24. See the PTA Council website's Finances/Insurance (<https://bcptacouncil.org/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 990 e-postcard. Provide a copy of the 990 filing to FSPTA through Givebacks. More details here: <https://www.irs.gov/charities-and-nonprofits>.
- ✓ **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. Start here: www.onestop.md.gov.
<https://sos.maryland.gov/Charity/Pages/Registering-Charity.aspx>
- ✓ **INCORPORATION/MARYLAND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RETURN:** All local PTAs must be incorporated in Maryland. To maintain your incorporation status, a Personal Property Tax Report must be filed by April 15 each year whether or not your PTA owns any property. Check your status here: www.dat.state.md.us. If your unit is not incorporated or the incorporation needs to be revived, contact FSPTA.

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

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

FSPTA requests that units submit SoA documents via Givebacks!

UPCOMING FREE STATE PTA TRAINING

<https://www.fspta.org/post/mark-your-calendars-upcoming-free-state-pta-trainings>

National PTA's 2024 Virtual Legislative Conference (LegCon): March 4-6, 2025

Registration is now open for [National PTA's 2025 Virtual Legislative Conference](#)

National PTA will advocate for school mental health services, school safety, fully funding public schools, substance use prevention and more. PTA will review policy priorities and strategies for the new administration, hear from standout advocacy champions and be inspired by the 2025 National PTA Outstanding Advocacy Award winners!

- Connect and network with fellow PTA advocates from across the country
- Receive updates on emerging education and school safety policy issues
- Engage with congressional advocacy champions and national advocacy partners
- Learn effective strategies for influencing federal policy decisions
- And—the day PTA advocates have been waiting all year for—the conference will include Virtual Hill Day, your time to speak directly with your members of Congress about issues that matter to students, families and schools.

Registration is \$50. Make sure to register by Wednesday, Feb. 19 so we can schedule your Hill Day meetings. Get more details about the conference at [PTA.org/LegCon](https://pta.org/LegCon).



Parent University NEWS!

FACEtime Newsletter

Parent University Newsletters are available here: [My Newsletters](#) | [Smore](#)

PTA Leader Invitation

The BCPS Office of Family and Community Engagement has designed an invitation for PTA leaders to use to personally invite parents and/or community members to join their boards.

You Belong on our PTA Board – Will You Join Us?

[English](#) [Spanish](#)

Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium (MAEC) Equity/Family Engagement Survey and Webinar Series

MAEC is a nonprofit organization focused on promoting equity and excellence in education. In collaboration with BCPS, MAEC will host a webinar series aimed at improving family engagement through an equity-focused approach. This series is specifically designed to address the distinct needs of the BCPS community, as identified in a comprehensive district needs assessment, and will equip PTA leaders with essential resources, tools, and insights to support families in an effective and inclusive manner. Take the MAEC survey here: [systemwide assessment](#)

This initiative is made possible through MAEC's Collaborative Action for Family Engagement (CAFE), a federally funded statewide family engagement center that works to strengthen partnerships between schools and families across MD and PA. The webinar series will be supported by MAEC's federally funded Center for Education Equity (CEE).

Reminder about the End-of-Marking-Period Grading and Reporting

An important reminder on changes to BCPS' grading and reporting practices, student assessments and credits that went into effect at the start of this school year:

- students will be awarded 0.5 credit after successful completion of Marking Period (MP) 1 and MP 2. As a reminder, this change aligns our practices with other school systems in the state, emphasizes the importance of closely measuring and monitoring student progress throughout the marking period, and provides built-in opportunities for students to reset and get back on track faster. Watch this short, [informative video](#) by Student Member of the Board Ugonma Chike-Kalu explaining the benefits of this change for secondary students. Students will earn 0.5 credit after a passing grade is achieved for Semester I (MP1, MP2) and earn another 0.5 credit passing for Semester II (MP3, MP4, and final exam). MP3 and MP4 will each weigh 45 percent and the final exam will weigh 10 percent to calculate the Semester II grade. Final grades will be calculated in Focus based on the MP3, MP4, and final exam grades.
- the curriculum-based assessment schedule was revised to create better alignment with pacing.
- The elimination of the rounding of quarter grades below 1.0: if a student does not attempt any work on an assignment or an assessment in good faith, a zero will be assigned.

Families are strongly encouraged to monitor student grades and progress consistently in Focus/Schoology and contact teachers, counselors, and administrators when a student needs help. If you need any additional assistance, please contact your child's school.

DUES: PTA (National and Free State) Dues and Council Dues

Has your unit paid last year's (overdue) and this year's **PTA membership dues**? Find information on how to handle dues here:

<https://bcptacouncil.org/resources/membership>

Pay council dues (due in October) using the form here:

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

Important Financial Filings!

Did you file your **IRS 990**, which was due 11/15/24?

Did you file your **MD Charitable Solicitations Act filing**, which was due on 12/30/24?

Find details on fulfilling these CRUCIAL corporate requirements here:

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

PLEASE REACH OUT WITH QUESTIONS!



Update from PTA Council's Reflections Chair

Local unit PTA submissions are at the county level for judging and will be submitted to FSPTA in late January. FSPTA announces recipients in March; NPTA announces recipients in May. Thanks to all units that took part in the program!

The PTA Council Reflections Ceremony is planned for

Sunday, March 16 at 2pm, location to be determined. Info and invitations to follow!

Website: <https://bcptacouncil.org/resources/reflections>

Jessica Roosth, reflections@bcptacouncil.org

FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (FSCP) NEWS

Chair Ramona Basilio (familyschool@bcptacouncil.org)

PTA Council Responsible Cell Phone Use Committee: Community Event(s)!

"Screenagers" -- The Social Media Movie

PTA Council advocates for responsible cell phone use. In a continuing effort to promote overall social media health and safety, the FSCP committee is offering small grants to PTA units willing to partner on showing the social media awareness documentary "Screenagers." We are scheduling the showings to coincide with **National Unplugged Day on March 7**, or on a mutually convenient day during a week in March.

We would love to partner with PTA units on block-bookings of "Screenagers." Realizing budget constraints, we are negotiating a multi-school package. Each school's donation will only be \$175. Your ideas, suggestions, and collaboration are invaluable. Please join us!

For additional information or to discuss the project in greater detail and set up a preview for co-sponsors, email Ramona Basilio at partnerships@bcptacouncil.org. **Thank you for your time and support of social media safety!**

Live your BEST Digital Life Kick-off!

The BCPS School Health Council's Social Media Workgroup has developed a social media campaign to support student health by providing resources to parents, staff, and students with strategies to Live Your BEST Digital Life. Principals are encouraged to [share this infographic](#) in upcoming parent newsletters and classrooms. The theme for early January is "Balanced" in support of balanced social media use. During the second half of the school year, new resources for parents and educators will be shared every two weeks. More information is available in a [BCPS News Hub post](#).



Free State PTA Legislative Advocacy Day in Annapolis

Registration is now OPEN for **Legislative Advocacy Day** (9am-5pm, including lunch) AND the **Legislative Advocacy Reception** (6:30-9pm, including dinner) to be held on **Monday, February 17th** in Annapolis.

Join fellow FSPTA members to advocate in Annapolis directly with your state legislators!

Please Note: There are 2 registration links. You are invited to attend the day-time, evening, or both!

Advocacy Day: <https://www.votervoicenet.com/FSPTA/Events/8056/Register>

Advocacy Evening: <https://www.votervoicenet.com/FSPTA/Events/8058/Register>



2024-25 PTA COUNCIL CALENDAR

General Meetings and Special Events

(virtual or in-person, to be decided based on BCPS policy and health conditions)

- January 30, 2025: Meeting/Program, 7pm (virtual)
- March 16, 2025: Reflections Ceremony
- March 27, 2025: Meeting/Program, 7pm
- April 24, 2025: Meeting/Program, 7pm
- June 9, 2025: Officer Training, Scholarship Presentations, Reflections Recognition, 7pm

Board of Directors' Virtual Meetings

First Thursday of the month @ 7pm (if interested in attending, please request a link):

- February 6, 2025
- March 6, 2025
- April 3, 2025
- May 1, 2025
- June 5, 2025



PTA COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING & PRESENTATIONS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30 @ 7PM VIA ZOOM

- Remarks from new County Executive (and former PTA leader!) Kathy Klausmeier
- Business meeting
- Legislative Update from Advocacy and Legislation Committee Chair Beth Jarrett
- Membership Workshop

Our meetings are open to the public – you don't need to be a PTA member to attend! Only voting delegates (up to 4) named by a PTA/PTSA unit president may vote in the business portion of the meeting.

LINK:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86497556038?pwd=bE6lNF4laj5uKJf557sULmngBwKbDj.1>

To RSVP, email president@bcptacouncil.org by 1/29/25!

PTA Council Leadership Contacts

Officers:

President: Leslie Weber, president@bcptacouncil.org

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

Area VP Southeast Area: Will Feuer, avpsenc@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 & Instruction: Carrie Horwitz Lang, curriculum@bcptacouncil.org

Extension: Emory Young, extension@bcptacouncil.org

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

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

Nominating Committee: Beth Jarrett, legislation@bcptacouncil.org

Reflections: Jessica Roosth, reflections@bcptacouncil.org

Representatives:

Baltimore County Student Councils: Mansi Chandrasekaran

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

Teachers' Association of Baltimore County: Kelly Olds