

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>

MARCH 2026 | BULLETIN

President's Letter

This is our next-to-last PTA Council bulletin of the year. May will be the last issue. A few key items:

- PTA Council General Meeting on Thursday, 3/26 (virtual), 7pm – Know Your Rights presentation and Standby Guardianship training, announcement of slate of officers for PTA Council elections
- Maryland Personal Property Report due on 4/15 - this is **CRUCIAL** to remain an active corporation in Maryland and needs to be filed by **ALL UNITS even if they own no personal property!**
- PTA Council General Meeting and Elections on Thursday, 4/30 (virtual) at 7pm
- PTA Council Scholarships (applications due 5/1)

Thanks to the Presidents who attended our February and March **BCPS Leadership-PTA Roundtables with Dr. Rogers**. We hope you continue to find them useful. The next roundtable is on **April 16th at 6:30pm via Zoom**.

The Reflections Program Celebration will take place on Sunday, March 22 from 2-4pm. Students' amazing work will be displayed, we'll host an awards ceremony, and light refreshments will be served. See below for more information.

If you're holding **elections** this spring, it's time to select your nominating committee to identify new leaders to keep your unit moving forward. If you need help with nominations or the election process, contact us.

National PTA and Free State PTA membership dues: while you should continue selling memberships and collecting dues, to be in "good standing" and to determine the number of delegates you may send to the Free State PTA Convention, you must remit dues for at least 10 members by March 31!

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." Contact me or any of our board members for **ANY HELP YOU NEED!**

Every child. One voice,

President

Leslie Weber, President (president@bcptacouncil.org or 410-227-7631)

Every child. One voice.



Leader To-Do List

MARCH

- Pay FSPTA and National PTA dues
- Review bylaws to determine date/process for selecting PTA Nominating Committee
- PTA Council General Meeting, 3/26, 7pm (virtual)
- Share Council Scholarship Application (due 5/1)

APRIL

- Pay FSPTA and National PTA dues
- Personal Property Report due by 4/15; all PTAs must file ONLINE to maintain incorporation status (<https://bcptacouncil.org/personal-property-report>)
- PTA Council General Meeting, 4/30, 7pm (virtual)
- Share Council Scholarship Application due 5/1
- Publish your nominating committee's slate of officers; check your bylaws for specifics
- Elect officers for next school year; see bylaws for correct election month

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.
- ✓ **FINANCIAL REVIEW (AUDIT):** All PTAs must conduct an annual financial review (due 10/30).
- ✓ **INSURANCE:** Every PTA unit in Maryland must have insurance coverage through AIM. Enrollment forms were emailed to all PTAs. Coverage ended 6/30/25.
- ✓ **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:** As a charitable organization soliciting in MD, your unit must file documents with the Secretary of State. Registration is required prior to the commencement of solicitations (for new units) and an annual update is required.
- ✓ **INCORPORATION/MD PERSONAL PROPERTY REPORT:** All local PTAs must be incorporated in MD. To maintain your incorporation status, a Personal Property Report must be filed by 4/15 each year if your PTA owns any property or not.

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

FSPTA requires that units submit SoA documents via Givebacks!

Detailed information on how to handle all of these requirements is here:

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

Important Financial Filings!

- Did you file your IRS 990, which was due 11/15/25?
- Did you file your MD Charitable Solicitations Act filing, which was due on 12/30/25?
- Find details on these CRUCIAL requirements here:

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

PTA (National, Free State) Dues and Council Dues

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

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

Dues are due to Free State PTA by 3/31!

Pay council dues using the form here:

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

PLEASE REACH OUT WITH QUESTIONS!



MARYLAND PERSONAL PROPERTY REPORT

Even though your unit likely owns no personal property, you must submit (online) a Maryland Personal Property Report Update every year to remain a corporation in “good standing” with the state. **This report is due on April 15.**

Filing this report is one of your unit’s Standards of Affiliation (SoA). You need to file to make sure the state knows your unit/corporation is still in operation.

- **Annual Report must be filed by all PTAs. (NOTE: Annual Report form does not solicit income information and must be filed regardless of income.)**
- **Personal Property Tax Return must be filed only by those PTAs, if any, that actually own personal property.**

More information may be found here: <https://dat.maryland.gov/businesses/Pages/default.aspx>

The simplest method to file both the Annual Report and Personal Property Tax Return is through [Maryland Business Express \(MBE\)](#). *As you answer the prompts in filing the Annual Report electronically, MBE will automatically identify whether a Personal Property Tax Return is required.*

All business entities registered to do business in Maryland MUST file an Annual Report and, if they answer ‘Yes’ to either of the following questions, MUST ALSO file a Personal Property Tax Return. If this applies to your business entity, please file both the Annual Report and Business Personal Property Return together.

- Does the business own, lease, or use personal property located in Maryland?
- Does the business maintain a trader’s license with a local unit of government in Maryland?

To file electronically, go to Maryland Business Express at <https://egov.maryland.gov/businessexpress> – search by your unit’s name or your Dept ID.

You’ll need to register the first time you visit, but the process is quick and easy.

In the red box on the left, you’ll find a link to file your report:

Please go [HERE](#) to file your Annual Report. A 2-month **extension request** for filing the Annual Report and Personal Property Tax Return may be filed [here](#).

All PTAs are “Domestic Non-Stock Corporations.”

Once you’ve filed for your unit online, the SDAT’s online filing system allows you to pull up that information as your starting point the next year. You also can print copies of filings or save them as pdfs, which is highly advisable, even though it’s easy to confirm filing and access the information included in the report at any time using that feature of SDAT’s website.

Please provide a copy to Free State PTA via Givebacks.

If you find your PTA’s charter has been forfeited, please contact PTA Council for help reviving your unit. To check the status of your PTA, use the Entity Search feature of Maryland Business Express:

<https://egov.maryland.gov/BusinessExpress/EntitySearch>.

QUESTIONS?: Please contact Jayne Lee, Treasurer, treasurer@bcptacouncil.org



PTA Council's Family, School and Community Partnerships (FSCP) Committee

The PTA Council of Baltimore County is proud to announce its 2025-26 Service-Learning Pilot (SLP) Program. As a vital bridge between families and Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS), the Council is on a mission to get students, families, and PTA leaders "informed, engaged, and excited about service." The pilot will officially kick off in April 2026, coinciding with National Volunteer Month and Youth Service Week (culminating in Global Youth Service Day, April 24-26).

The PTA Council is uniquely positioned to ensure that students and members can find a way to contribute by leveraging our 130 local PTA/PTSA non-profit units as the "PTA Council Service-Learning Partners Hub." In a landmark collaboration, the PTA Council is working alongside BCPS's Office of Family and Community Engagement, the League of Women Voters, and Youth Service America by offering a mix of direct, indirect, and advocacy-based opportunities. Our goal is threefold: intentional connection, collaborative training, and elevating middle school service.

PTA Council's FSCP Committee's Community Partners Subcommittee plays a key role in the PTA/BCPS service-learning partnership and the Global Youth Service Day launch. We are seeking area PTA/PTSA leaders, student council representatives, student advocates, and dedicated community members to join us in the strategic rollout of the pilot.

For details on how you can be a part of this exciting opportunity, contact FSCP Committee Chair Ramona Basilio at partnerships@bcptacouncil.org.

Update from PTA Council's Reflections Committee



reflections@bcptacouncil.org

The National PTA's Reflections Program Celebration will be held on March 22 at Cockeysville Middle School from 2-4pm. This year's theme is "I Belong!"

If you'd like to attend, please email president@bcptacouncil.org by 3/18.

Eleven PTA/PTSA units took part this year and 82 entries were sent to us for Council-level judging. In late January, PTA Council forwarded winning entries to Free State PTA, which will announce winners in mid-March. We hope some BCPS entries won at the state level and moved on to National PTA for judging!

Congratulations!

We're proud that the Chair of our Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, Edwin Perez, was personally invited by Lt. Gov. Miller to attend Gov. Moore's State of the State Address on 2/11/26. Edwin was selected because of his strong leadership and wide-ranging advocacy related to protecting immigrant and mixed-status students and families. We joke that Edwin wears many hats. We're happy that PTA Council is one of them!

PTA Council Advocacy and Legislation Committee

Chair Beth Jarrett, legislation@bcptacouncil.org

Beth also serves as Free State PTA's VP for Advocacy!

1. Beth has continued to write testimony for FSPTA during the 2026 General Assembly – a key Council-supported bill relates to healthy school start times.
2. Beth planned a successful FSPTA Advocacy Day in Annapolis on 2/17. Attendees met with legislators to discuss legislative priorities during the day and enjoyed an evening reception for legislators and PTA leaders.
3. PTA Council was represented at National PTA's Legislative Conference (LegCon), March 2-4, by Treasurer Jayne Lee, who met with national legislators and shared PTA priorities.
4. The PTA Council Board of Directors voted to support legislation to keep councilmanic districts and school-board districts aligned.

PTA COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS

We offer scholarships to BCPS high school seniors; selections are made in May based on the following factors: Student's membership in a Baltimore County PTA in good standing; Essay; Academic Record; Student Resume.

In addition to regular scholarships, PTA Council grants two special scholarships:

- The **Georgie Clevenger Memorial Scholarship** for a graduating senior planning on a career in the health sciences
- The **Marilyn Ryan Memorial Scholarship** for a graduating senior with exceptional volunteering or community service

Application due on 5/1/2026! The application is on our website!

<https://bcptacouncil.org/scholarships/>

The application will also be shared with BCPS Guidance Departments.

Awardees will be recognized at our in-person Leadership Training Event on June 8 at 7pm, West Towson Elementary School

BCPS Parent University FACEtime Newsletter



Access resources and read their monthly newsletter here!

https://www.bcps.org/communications/FACEtime/parent_university/facetime_newsletter

Council Elections

As noted in our bylaws, PTA Council officers serve 2-year terms and we hold elections in even years. So – it's time for us to hold elections again! Our slate of officers will be announced at our virtual March General Meeting on 3/26 at 7pm. Thank you to our Nominating Committee for their efforts!

- **Northeast:** Katie Fetchik
- **Northwest:** Melissa Sivels, Chair
- **Southwest:** Kari Waters

Thanks to those who submitted Officer Interest Forms. There will also be nominations from the floor.

If your unit is holding elections, please review the guidance on our website:

<https://bcptacouncil.org/about-us/join-us>

BCPS Immigration Support and Resources for Students, Families, and Staff

Access important resources here:

<https://www.bcps.org/parents/immigration>



National PTA Resource Know Your Rights: New Resources for Immigrant Parents and Caregivers

The [National Immigration Law Center](#) and Center for Law and Social Policy jointly developed a [resource for immigrant parents](#) and caregivers which details the rights that parents and caregivers have while being apprehended and detained. Under its own policies, ICE has a responsibility to ensure that detained parents and caregivers have a say in the care of their children and keeping them safe.

[Download in English](#) / [Leer en Español](#) / [Download in Haitian Creole](#)

Unsure how to talk to your children about what is happening with immigration enforcement? The Immigrant Family Mental Health Advocacy (IFMHA) Program at the Institute for Juvenile Research at UIC co-created a [brochure for parents and caregivers](#) that details how families can prepare, support, communicate, heal and continue to be resilient.

PTA urges everyone to [take action to support policies](#) that create a safe and supportive school environment for all families and students, including students in immigrant and mixed-status families. [Learn more](#) about PTA's position on Rights and Services for Children in Immigrant and Mixed Status Families.

BCPS Board of Education Meeting Alert!

On Tuesday, March 24, 2026, the Board of Education will review an Immigrant Protection Policy. PTA supports this policy.

When: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 @ 6:30pm

Where: 6901 N. Charles Street, Building E, Room 114, Towson, MD (BCPS Greenwood Campus)

How to Participate:

- Attend In Person: Seating is first-come, first-served. Recommendation is to arrive by 5:30pm to guarantee a seat in the main room.
- Speak In Person or Virtually (3 min): You must register online. Registration opens one week before and closes at 3pm the day before the meeting. You will sign up to speak on the policy.
https://www.bcps.org/board_of_education/participation_by_the_public
- Submit Written Comments: Email your support to the Board of Education to be included in the official record. Email: boe@bcps.org

Watch Online: Live on YouTube or BCPS-TV (Comcast 73/Verizon 34).

<https://youtube.com/@baltcops>



PTA Council General Meeting & Presentations (Virtual)

Thursday, March 26 @ 7pm via Zoom

- **Business meeting with presentation of 2026-28 PTA Council slate of officers**
- **Workshop: Know Your Rights and Standby Guardianship:** Samantha Williams, MSW, from Sanctuary Streets, Baltimore will present a timely workshop on individuals' rights when approached by law enforcement and some preparations families can consider in case of separation.

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.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86554561619?pwd=0ZJdsXqV6rmXcIRiPaWUoxMqa27RGx.1>

To RSVP, email president@bcptacouncil.org by 3/25/26!

GET PROTECTED AGAINST **MUMPS**

Talk to your provider or visit our health centers to receive the **MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine.**

Baltimore County Health Centers are able to vaccinate both adults and children with the MMR vaccine (measles, mumps and rubella). Adults who have never been vaccinated with MMR should have their first dose as soon as they can and a second dose 4 weeks later. Children should receive their first dose at 1 year and their second dose at 4 - 6 years.

Mumps can be serious, and result in: Inflammation and pain of the testicles or ovaries in adults, and in rare cases may cause male infertility. Other rare complications include inflammation of the brain, hearing loss, and inflammation of the pancreas.

News from Baltimore County's Department of Social Services: Become a Resource Parent!

Baltimore County needs individuals, couples, and families who can nurture young people ranging in age from newborn to 20 years old.

<https://bcptacouncil.org/health-and-safety/become-a-resource-parent-flyer/>



Keeping Your PTA Out of Politics!

An important reminder: PTA, which are non-profits, aren't allowed to endorse candidates.

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/exemption-requirements-501c3-organizations>

To be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, an organization must be organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes set forth in section 501(c)(3). It may not be an action organization, i.e., it may not attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities and it may not participate in any campaign activity for or against political candidates.

Section 501(c)(3) organizations are restricted in how much political and legislative (*lobbying*) activities they may conduct. For a detailed discussion, see [Political and Lobbying Activities](#).

Free Youth SEL Workshop Available

Supported by Community Health Initiative in Maryland, Dr. Cixin Wang, Associate Professor in School Psychology at University of Maryland will provide a 6-week FREE Social and Emotional Learning workshop for Asian-American youth (Grades 3-8) in Maryland on Saturdays (virtual, 4-5:30 p.m. from 4/18-5/30 - no class on 5/23). These classes are specifically tailored for Asian-American youth to promote emotional awareness, stress management, time management, friendship skills, and build confidence and healthy self-esteem. Youth can also receive SSL hours for participating and promoting SEL in the AAPI community.



Registration link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSci2XrosjJDdh2VdsY-4Mszvmdknp9KBSWQoTWSj2fMcsQ9WQ/viewform?usp=header>

Also available from Dr. Wang, a 6-week FREE parenting workshop for parents who speak Chinese. Register via the same link.



“Create with Kindness” National PTA Marquee Event at Eastern Tech!

In our January bulletin, we congratulated the Eastern Technical High School (ETHS) PTSA and other units, which received National PTA grants this past grant cycle. We later received the amazing news that the ETHS PTSA was awarded an additional grant to host a National PTA Marquee Event! Congratulations to President April Carrio and her board for taking the initiative to apply!

We want a great turn-out, so please consider attending!

PTA Connected: Create with Kindness Event

Hosted by Eastern Technical High School PTSA, with support from National PTA and TikTok

Tuesday April 21st, 5:30-8pm

Eastern Technical High School

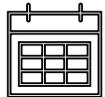
1100 Mace Avenue Essex, MD 21221

The event will bring together teens, parents, and caregivers to explore teens' online experiences, how they approach conversations with their families, and the tools and resources available to families to set healthy digital boundaries. **During the event, you'll hear from PTA and TikTok leaders as well as a panel of Eastern Technical High School students.**

Dinner and childcare will be provided!

Please **RSVP by EOD April 15th**, if possible. Registration Link - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScRyPWxu-PuTgEXgtbv-Hqv8usIGuECGDhySPnFVvnkDypXHQ/viewform?usp=publish-editor>

2025-26 PTA COUNCIL CALENDAR



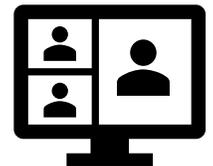
General Meetings/Special Events

- March 22, 2026: Reflections Ceremony, Cockeysville Middle, 2-4pm
- March 26, 2026: Virtual Meeting, Slate of Officers Presentation, Know Your Rights and Standby Guardianship Workshop, 7pm
- April 30, 2026: Virtual Meeting, Elections, Program, 7pm
- June 8, 2026: Leadership Training, Scholarships and State Reflections Winners Presentations, West Towson Elementary, 7pm

Board of Directors' Virtual Meetings

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

- April 16
- May 7
- June 4



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: Melissa Sivels, Chair, nominations@bcptacouncil.org (full committee on our website)

Reflections: reflections@bcptacouncil.org

Scholarships: Angie Obaza, awards@bcptacouncil.org

Representatives:

Baltimore County Student Councils: Hiyall Fitsum

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

Teachers' Association of Baltimore County: Lloyd Allen, lallen@mseanea.org

Contact Us!

PTA Council of Baltimore County, Inc.

c/o Sue Hahn, BCPS Office of Family and Community Engagement

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www.bcptacouncil.org