

## PTA STRUCTURE

### **LOCAL UNIT – forms a nationwide network of members striving to meet the needs of children and youth**

- Grassroots of PTA!
- Operates as a self-governing body, adhering to ALL non-profit law and regulations.
- Linked through its membership and district to Virginia PTA and National PTA.
- Works at the school site, home, and community for all children.
- Bylaws are based on Local Unit Bylaws of the Virginia PTA.

### **COUNCIL – an advisory body that assists with efforts of local units**

- Must have at least three local units in membership to be a chartered council.
- Provides conference (programs and leadership training) and cooperation of efforts for local units within the council.
- Provides advisory assistance to local units and assists school educators and PTA presidents in understanding their partnership roles as leaders in education.
- Assists in organization of new local units.
- Serves as a communication link between local units and district by relaying news, information, and instruction from school officials, District PTA, Virginia PTA, and National PTA.
- Bylaws are based on Council Bylaws of the Virginia PTA.

### **DISTRICT – local unit and councils direct connection to Virginia PTA**

- Geographical division of the Virginia PTA. The unit's direct link to the Virginia PTA.
- Includes all PTA members within the district.
- Promotes the work of the Virginia PTA and National PTA.
- Organizes local units and councils.
- Provides leadership training.
- Conducts legislative meetings and workshops.
- Liaison between Virginia PTA and councils and local units in the district.
- District Director represents constituent associations on the Virginia PTA Board of Managers.

### **STATE – 54 state-level congresses representing 50 states, District of Columbia, US Virgin Islands, and Department of Defense Dependent Schools in Europe and the Pacific**

- A branch of the National PTA and includes all PTA members within the state. President represents Virginia PTA on the National Council of States.
- Adopts bylaws not in conflict with National PTA Bylaws.
- Provides leadership training to local units, councils, and districts.
- Holds annual meeting (convention) to conduct business.
- Provides publications and informative materials.
- Develops projects and programs that are statewide in scope.
- Promotes National PTA projects and programs.
- Publishes and distributes the Virginia PTA *Bulletin* and publishes electronic newsletters—*Virginia PTA Voice*, *Capitol News*, and Legislative Action Alerts. Maintains the Virginia PTA website.
- Takes action to support/oppose legislation dealing with children's health, education, and welfare through Virginia PTA Legislation Program.

### **NATIONAL – a powerful voice working on the federal level for all children with nearly 6 million members**

- Includes all that join local unit PTAs.
- Establishes policies.
- Advocates nationally and internationally for children and youth.
- Develops and funds projects which are national in scope.
- Holds an annual convention.
- Holds a national legislative conference.
- Adopts bylaws which establish purposes, policies, and structure of National PTA.
- Develops programs and leadership materials.