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## **Florida PTA Supports Release of Education Standards**

*The following statement was released by Karin Brown, President, Florida*

**Orlando, FL (June 2, 2010)** – Florida PTA enthusiastically supports today's release of clear, rigorous education standards that if adopted, will help Florida students, parents, and teachers all be on the same page and working together to ensure that young people are prepared for the demands of college and the workplace.

Developed and informed by teachers, parents, and experts in standards, the K-12 Common Core State Standards for math and English language arts represent a common sense next step to build on all of the good work already happening in Florida.

These standards, released today by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers, define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate from high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs.

Today, some children are fortunate, engaging in rich educational experiences and graduating high school prepared to fulfill their dreams. Then there are the unlucky ones who do everything asked and expected of them and are awarded a high school diploma, yet find themselves in college unable to do the work and sent to take remedial courses. Not surprisingly, remedial courses lead to frustration and added expense, which often leads to abandoning a once fruitful career path. Today, 60 percent of students beginning community college need to take at least one remedial class.

These standards build on the best of current state standards and define what students are expected to know and be able to do each year beginning in kindergarten through high school graduation. This clear and simple set of standards focuses on the fundamentals a young person needs to master in English literacy and mathematics to develop essential reasoning, analytic, and writing skills. The standards, which are evidence-based, provide a staircase for learning, so that students' knowledge is built in the right sequence, one step at a time.

We now have a path forward to give every student, regardless of their zip code or income status, an education that will open the door to opportunity, mobility, career success, and good citizenship, enabling them to pursue their life aspirations.

Florida PTA continues to urge its members and all parents and families to become involved in advocating for the adoption and implementation of the Common Core State Standards for math and English language arts. We also encourage our chief state school officer and the state board of education to include parents and PTA representatives in the adoption and implementation process. Parents and PTA members can provide valuable perspectives and can be key partners in advocating for standards adoption and implementation at the local level.

Adoption and implementation of the Common Core State Standards will not only mean that our young people will be better prepared for college and a career; it will make our economy stronger over the long term.

### **About PTA**

PTA comprises millions of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of parent involvement in schools. PTA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health, and welfare of children and youth.