



# Brian Whiston Advocate of the Year Michigan PTA Award Nomination Form

*Award Application **must be received by June 1, 2020***

*All Units/Councils must have current Standards of Affiliation to nominate.*

Please Type and submit via mail, email, or upload to [www.michiganpta.org](http://www.michiganpta.org) **NO FAXES**

In May 2018, Michigan's children lost a life-long advocate in the passing of State Superintendent Brian Whiston.

Whiston served as State Superintendent from his appointment in July 2015, and Superintendent of Dearborn (MI) Public Schools – the state's third largest school district – from 2008 to 2015. Prior to that, he served 10 years as Director of Government and Community Services for the Oakland County ISD, Mr. Whiston consistently demonstrated his ability to work with state government to bring financial resources to schools, lead his department to improved student achievement, and help make all schools in the county successful. He also served as a local school board member for 17 years and held the position of President-Elect of the Michigan Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)—a position he had to relinquish to serve more students as Superintendent. He was known for his passion, advocacy, and desire for quality education for all children, regardless of zip code. In one of his last acts, he ensured the parent voice was included in his quest to make Michigan a top education state.

This award has been established to honor Brian and his work by recognizing an individual who most exemplifies the qualities that made him a true advocate for all children. The Brian Whiston Advocate of the Year award will be presented to an individual PTA member, who through their leadership and advocacy efforts, affected federal, state, or local policy priorities within Michigan PTA's annual public policy agenda, continuing the work as Brian challenged us to do in his farewell to the Association during our Centennial. Winners will be selected by the VP of Children's Advocacy in conjunction with the President. If either entity is a nominee, the award will be decided by a committee from another state.

### ***PTA Mission: The Overall Purpose of PTA***

*A powerful voice for all children;*

*A relevant resource for families and communities, and*

*A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child*

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### **Nomination Requirements:**

The nominee must be a current PTA member whose unit/council/district/state is in good standing or a member of A.L.L. PTA. Additionally, the nominee's advocacy efforts must have taken place within the last year and documentation of these efforts must be provided. Nominations will be reviewed by the Advocacy Committee, Board of Directors and the Michigan PTA President. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Nominees may self-apply for consideration and please note PTA leaders may be contacted.

### **Complete nominations must include:**

- Contact and PTA membership information for both the nominee and submitting unit;
- A brief narrative for each question below concerning the nominee's advocacy on behalf of PTA (500 words or less recommended per question);
- At least one reference with a letter of recommendation (3 maximum)
- Any additional documentation of advocacy efforts, such as Op-Eds and Letters-to-the Editor written by nominee, awards received, blog posts, etc.

*Please Print or Type Legibly*

**Nominee Information**

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (best contact number): \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

PTA Volunteer position(s): \_\_\_\_\_

External Volunteer position(s)/group(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Award Writer Contact Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (best contact number): \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Selection Criteria (Please include details about all of the following)**

1. Identify the issue(s) most aligned to the nominee’s advocacy efforts as listed in the National PTA 2016 Public Policy Agenda (e.g. Child Health and Safety, Juvenile Justice, Special Education). If the issue doesn't align with those in the National PTA Public Policy Agenda, please define the issue in detail and indicate how this advocacy is aligned with the mission of PTA. Describe the outcome(s) of these efforts.
2. Describe the advocacy plan and actions that were undertaken in the past year to address this issue. Include information on: activities conducted, target audience, efforts to engage families, community stakeholders, media, policymakers and/or decision makers, including any informal or formal partnerships developed to address this issue.
3. Please explain how the nominee's efforts raised PTA members’ awareness of this issue and how they motivated and mentored members to take action.
4. What was the outcome or impact of the nominee’s efforts? If there is no clear result at this time, describe how the individual continues to promote and sustain the effort(s) throughout the year.
5. How does the nominee exemplify the qualities Brian exhibited in his life and work? (Advocacy on behalf of children, program development, equitable representation, pushing for education excellence, supporting parental involvement and empowerment.)

**References**

Reference 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (best contact number): \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (best contact number): \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (best contact number): \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit completed application and all supporting documentation:

**Via Mail**



Advocacy Committee  
Michigan PTA  
P.O. Box 510535  
Livonia, MI 48181

**Via Email**



Email to  
[membership@michiganpta.org](mailto:membership@michiganpta.org)

**MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE Michigan PTA OFFICE ON OR BEFORE APRIL 15<sup>th</sup> - NO EXCEPTIONS**

**Total Points Available: 150 (\_\_\_\_)**

**\*\*\*For Office Use Only\*\*\***

| Date Rec'd | SOA Confirmed | Points | Data Verified | Awarded? |
|------------|---------------|--------|---------------|----------|
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## ***For Your Information:***

### ***Standards of Affiliation***

Due to the Michigan PTA State Office by **December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year** as applicable:

**Current List of Officers and Chairpersons**

**Renewal Dues** (\$40)

**Bylaws** (*dated within the years 2015-2018*)

**Budget** (*approved by the Council/Unit according to policy and then sent to state office*)

**Audit** (*signed copy of annual audit submitted to state office*)

**Copy of 990** (*or rejection, submitted to IRS*)

**Paid Members** (*Units only*)

**Insurance**

### ***The PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships:***

1. Welcoming all Families into the School Community
2. Communicating Effectively
3. Supporting Student Success
4. Speaking Up for Every Child
5. Sharing Power
6. Collaborating with the Community