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Richmond County Council of PTAs Awarded Grant to Host Family Workshop on Online Safety

Augusta, Georgia January 1, 2020 — National PTA has awarded Richmond County Council of PTAs with a \$1,000 grant to host a workshop for Augusta, Georgia families on online safety in celebration of Safer Internet Day, Feb. 11, 2020. Richmond County Council of PTAs is one of only 30 PTAs nationwide selected to receive a grant. The grant, sponsored by TikTok, recognizes Richmond County Council of PTAs leadership and commitment to helping families navigate the digital world.

"TikTok has become one of the most popular apps among teens today. At the same time, we've heard from parents nationwide that TikTok is an app they don't fully understand," said Leslie Boggs, president of National PTA. "We are pleased to equip Richmond County Council of PTAs with resources to educate parents about the app, engage families in a critical dialogue around digital safety and promote responsible online habits overall."

During the family workshop, parents and teens will:

- Engage with a student panel about online safety and digital citizenship.
- Learn about the available safety settings and privacy tools within TikTok.
- Work together to complete a guided activity that helps illustrate why teens enjoy using TikTok for creative expression.
- Be introduced to PTA Connected resources such as <u>the Smart Talk</u>, a free, interactive tool developed by National PTA and NortonLifeLock that helps families have ongoing conversations about digital well-being and technology use.

"National PTA believes in a positive, hands-on approach to parenting in the digital age, and we remain committed to connecting families with tools, research and support to encourage dialogue, help them navigate the digital world and be successful online," said Nathan R. Monell, CAE, National PTA executive director.

The grant program is part of National PTA's <u>PTA Connected</u> initiative, which is designed to deepen the understanding and knowledge of parents, families and teachers about digital safety tools and resources; mobilize PTAs, schools and communities to engage families around best practices and shared learning; and generate collective impact. TikTok is the newest sponsor of the initiative.

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 family engagement in schools. PTA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit association 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. For more information, visit PTA.org.