

EVERY CHILD * YOUR VOICE!

CHILD ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

INDIVIDUALS * ELECTED OFFICIALS * LOCAL UNITS * COUNCILS * DISTRICTS

Honoring impactful work advocating for the education, health, and well-being of students and school communities.

2020



Amber Alexander, Cave Spring Elementary School PTA

Roanoke County Council PTA, Roanoke District PTA

The Roanoke County School Board recently considered allowing a cell tower provider to lease land and construct cell towers at Cave Spring Middle School and William Byrd High School. Research shows that there is a correlation between cell tower radiation and cancer in children. Amber Alexander was instrumental in researching the issue, formulating talking points, addressing questions, educating the community via email and using social media to mobilize parents to attend and speak at the School Board meeting in opposition of the cell tower. The board voted 4-1 to terminate the agreement.

Fairfax County Council PTA

Northern Virginia District PTA

The Fairfax County Council PTA developed a turn-key program and toolkit for their 170 PTAs to host 'Talk About Vaping Now' sessions. The goal is to educate parents about the dangers, prevalence and signs of vaping, equip parents to talk with their kids and to create a community dialog about the vaping epidemic. The 'Talk About Vaping Now' toolkit is accessible on their website and includes a fact sheet about vaping, a parent invitation email, newsletter and social media blurbs, talking points for personal invites, a post event survey and step-by-step planning guide for the four weeks leading up to the event.



Hunt District PTA

The Hunt District PTA created new opportunities for PTA leaders to directly impact the development of policies and initiatives and opened dialog between parents and school administration as well as with elected officials. Through focus groups Hunt District PTA members provided feedback on a new grading-assessment policy and school security protocols. By hosting 'Community Conversations' the Hunt District PTA provided parents with valuable opportunities to share concerns and learn about school safety, mental health, school nutrition, vaping, technology use and maker labs. The Hunt District PTA has brought several resolutions to Virginia PTA, and is a participant in LCPS's AdHoc Equity Committee.



Senator Monty Mason, 1st District

Senator Monty Mason has a long history of support for public education and our children. In the 2019 session he was the chief patron of the Family First Prevention Services Act which seeks to improve the well-being of children in foster care by providing prevention services to families and improving kinship placements and financial support. It is the largest investment in the child welfare system in nearly 40 years. Senator Mason also served as co-chair for the inaugural Foster Care Caucus bringing focus to issues facing foster parents, relatives and children. In 2018 Senator Mason supported legislation to align Virginia's definition of homeless children to the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act definition to provide complete delivery of services from both the state and federal level.

