



North Carolina PTA Awards Guide

The Awards Program of North Carolina PTA provides us with the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the exemplary efforts of PTA/PTSA units, councils, and individuals throughout our state. Your participation in our Awards Program will give us the opportunity to share your outstanding accomplishments with other PTAs during our annual Spring Parent Education Conference.

You must now apply online for all of NCPTA's awards. Please refer to the Awards section on our website (www.ncpta.org) for the numerous ways to honor an outstanding teacher, principal, school administrator, volunteer, or your PTA. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to say "thank you" to deserving people who have contributed greatly

in improving the lives of children and youth. **The deadline for applying for State Awards is March 1st.** The following is an overview of the Awards opportunities offered by NCPTA. Please remember, NCPTA will only accept online awards applications. Apply at www.ncpta.org

Only PTA units/councils in good standing (adopted Uniform Bylaws, audit report submitted online to the State Office by August 31, membership dues paid, and members entered into the NCPTA Database) are eligible to apply.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the State PTA Office by e-mail at office@ncpta.org or visit our website at www.ncpta.org.

State Awards - March 1st Deadline

National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnership Awards



The National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnership Awards will recognize local PTAs and Councils whose programs and activities are based on one or more of the NPTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships. The six award standards are (1) Welcoming All Families, (2) Communicating Effectively, (3) Supporting Student Success, (4) Speaking up for Every Child, (5) Sharing Power, and (6) Collaborating with the Community.

Your PTA or Council may apply for an award for one or more of the standards. An award may be given at the Parent Education Conference for each standard by grade division plus councils. Grade divisions are Elementary, Middle and High. Schools with multiple grades must specify which grade division they are applying. All applications become the property of NCPTA and may be used on our website and/or resource materials as a best practice.

Read each standard. Use the questions listed after the definition as a guide for planning your program/project or activities. Program suggestions are also listed. The application will require a narrative that must include: the goals, the program/project/activities and the success of the program/project.

Standard 1: Welcoming all families into the school community

Definition: Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.

Involving others productively provides meaningful and rewarding opportunities for parents, community members and student participation in school activities and uses the best skills and talents of volunteers to maximize their

contributions. By developing strategies that allow and encourage parenting adults to take a more active role in supporting their children's education, parents become active participants in the life of the school, feel welcome and valued.

Although there are many parents for whom volunteering during school hours is not possible, creative solutions like before- or after-school "drop-in" programs or "at-home" support activities provide opportunities for parents to offer their assistance as well.

PTA is the largest volunteer organization in the United States with one purpose — to serve children, their families, and their school communities.

Consider these questions when planning your program/projects/activities:

1. Does your PTA/PTSA ensure that parents who are unable to volunteer in the school building are given the options for helping in other ways, i.e., at home or place of employment?
2. Does your PTA/PTSA ensure that volunteering is inclusive and offer opportunities for new leadership?
3. Does your PTA/PTSA organize an easily accessible program for utilizing parent volunteers, providing ample training on volunteer procedures and school protocol?
4. Does your PTA/PTSA design opportunities for those with limited time and resources to participate by addressing child-care, transportation, work schedule needs, etc?
5. Does your PTA/PTSA show appreciation for parents' participation and value their diverse contributions?
6. Does your PTA/PTSA assist staff members in creating an inviting climate and effectively utilizing volunteer resources?
7. Does your PTA/PTSA ensure that volunteer activities are meaningful and built on volunteer interests and abilities?
8. Does your PTA/PTSA track volunteer hours throughout the year? Please provide total number of volunteer hours (this school year) and the total student enrollment.

Sample programs:

- Family nights on math and literacy
- Host an Open House or Multicultural event
- Family movie night
- Back to school carnival



Standard 2: Communicating effectively

Definition: Families and school staff engage in regular, meaningful communication about student learning. Communication is the way we connect with others by sharing thoughts and feelings, the basis for all human interactions, friendships and relationships, and one of the most important skills we can possess. When parents and educators communicate effectively, positive relationships develop, problems are more easily solved, and students make greater progress.

Communication should not be limited to your school families. It is critical that PTAs/PTSAs develop new connections to bring more interested and eager individuals into the school community.

Consider these questions when planning your program/projects/activities:

1. Does your PTA/PTSA communicate with parents in a variety of ways (e.g. telephone hotline translation equipment, email, or website) to foster communication with parents?
2. Does your PTA/PTSA provide information to parents in a language and format they can understand?
3. Does your PTA/PTSA encourage parents and educators to share information such as student strengths and learning preferences during parent-teacher conferences?
4. Does your PTA/PTSA give out information on topics such as school reforms, policies and procedures, discipline procedures, assessment tools, and school goals?

5. Does your PTA/PTSA mail or email copies of your newsletter to elected officials, central office administration, and other like-minded child advocacy groups in your community?
6. Does your PTA/PTSA promote informal activities at which parents, staff, the principal, and community members can interact?
7. Does your PTA/PTSA submit press releases and articles on a regular basis to local news media?

Sample programs:

- Parent Workshops on what is your child’s learning style
- PTA newsletters, websites, phone trees, Email distribution system
- Provide student planners, weekly folders



Standard 3: Supporting student success

Definition: Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students’ learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning. Supporting teaching and learning is translating high expectations into clear goals and positive action, and helping each child become the best he or she can be. In striving for high quality, interactive instruction, successful home-school partnerships must work to provide appropriate home supports for homework, behavioral expectations and social skills and provide multiple opportunities for productive involvement of parents and community members.

Student learning increases when parents are invited into the process by helping at home. Enlisting parents’ involvement provides educators and administrators with a valuable support system—creating a team that is working for each child’s success. Parents are willing to assist their students in learning, but many times are not sure what assistance is most helpful and appropriate. Helping parents connect to what their children are learning enables parents to communicate in powerful ways that they value what their children achieve. Whether it’s working together on a computer, displaying student work at home, or responding to a particular class assignment, parents’ actions communicate to their children that education is important.

Consider these questions when planning your program/projects/activities:

1. Does your PTA/PTSA work with your school, parent educators, or other community groups to host meetings and/or classes on parenting and parent involvement (parent involvement policies, programs, and activities with flexible hours to accommodate working parents) in their child’s education?
2. Does your PTA/PTSA work together with your school to establish policies that support and respect family responsibilities, recognizing the variety of parenting traditions and practices within the community’s cultural and religious diversity?
3. Does your PTA/PTSA work with your school to involve parents in planning for the transition to middle or high school, or post-secondary education and careers?
4. Does your PTA/PTSA sponsor workshops or distribute information to assist parents in understanding how students can improve skills, get help when needed, meet class expectations, and perform well on assessments?
5. Does your PTA/PTSA provide information regarding how parents can foster learning at home, give appropriate assistance, monitor homework, and give feedback to teachers?
6. Does your PTA/PTSA provide opportunities for staff members to learn about successful ways to engage parents in their child’s learning?

Sample programs:

- Family workshops on planning for college or career fairs
- Sponsor wellness and fitness programs.
- Student versus parent math/science or trivial competitions

Standard 4: Speaking up for every child

Definition: Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

Studies have shown that schools where parents are involved in decision-making and advocacy have higher levels of student achievement and greater public support.

Anyone who speaks for another is an advocate. PTA advocates for children and their families on a wide variety of child-related issues in the areas of education, health, and parent involvement. The purpose of advocacy is to communicate to decision makers to inform, educate, persuade or increase the level of awareness about an issue. Decision makers include elected and appointed officials, legislative bodies, and school boards.

Children cannot vote and are therefore not heard. PTAs across the country exist as their voice. Whether they are trying to ensure children are immunized against disease, have access to a quality education, or protected against school violence, PTA unites and empowers parents to work together for a common cause.

Consider these questions when planning your program/projects/activities:

1. Does your PTA/PTSA invite your senators and representatives to visit your schools?
2. Does your PTA/PTSA emphasize the positive work your schools are doing?
3. Does your PTA/PTSA attend legislative and advocacy training (such as State Legislative Conference) when it is offered?
4. Does your PTA/PTSA encourage all members to attend and participate in school board, and city/county commission meetings?
5. Does your PTA/PTSA provide opportunities for your membership to become knowledgeable about the legislative calendar, how to get listings of bill titles, and information on where and when education committees meet?
6. Does your PTA/PTSA craft and deliver a separate message for your local school board, local governing body (county/city commission) and your state legislative body that highlights the importance of the issues that are important to your school, family?
7. Has your PTA/PTSA written a position statement/resolution this year? Please include a copy(s) with your report.

Sample programs:

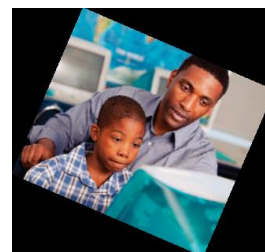
- Attend school board meetings
- Appoint a legislative representative who will attend your school board meetings and make a report to your membership.
- Provide the contact information on the decision makers and provide updates on legislative issues
- Invite your local or state elected officials to speak on a panel or forum.

Standard 5: Sharing power

Definition: Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

Effective partnerships develop when each partner is respected and empowered to fully participate in the decision-making process. Schools and programs that actively enlist parent participation and input communicate that parents are valued as full partners in the educating of their children.

Parents and educators depend on shared authority in decision-making systems to foster parental trust, public confidence, and mutual support of each other's efforts in helping students succeed. The involvement of parents, as individuals or as representative of others, is crucial in collaborative decision-making processes on issues ranging from curriculum and course selection to discipline policies and overall school reform measures.



Consider these questions when planning your program/projects/activities:

1. Does your PTA/PTSA provide understandable, accessible, and well-publicized workshops for influencing decisions, raising issues or concerns, and resolving problems?
2. Does your PTA/PTSA work with your school to identify and respond to issues of interest to parents?
3. Does your PTA/PTSA encourage your school to include parents on all decision-making and advisory committees and ensure adequate training for such areas as policy, curriculum, budget, school reform initiatives, safety, and personnel?
4. Does your PTA/PTSA encourage and facilitate active parent participation in the decisions that affect students, such as student placement, course selection and individual personalized education plans?
5. Does your PTA/PTSA work in partnership with your school to treat parent concerns with respect and demonstrate genuine interest in developing solutions?
6. Does your PTA/PTSA promote parent participation on school district, state, and national committees and issues?
7. Does your PTA/PTSA encourage and provide staff and parents with an opportunity to participate in leadership development (such as State Convention, State Legislative Conference, and Summer Leadership Training)?

Sample programs:

- Host a Kids ID program to address the issue of the dangers of strangers
- Host an informational night for parents on How to prepare your child for high school
- Host an informational session on what are the requirements for graduating from high school?
- How parents and teachers can promote internet safety at home and school



Standard 6: Collaborating with community

Definition: Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

As part of the larger community, schools and other programs fulfill important community goals. In like fashion, communities offer a wide array of resources valuable to schools and the families they serve. When schools and communities work together, both are strengthened in synergistic ways and make gains that outpace what either entity could accomplish on its own:

- Families access community resources more easily;
- Businesses connect education programs with the realities of the workplace;
- Seniors contribute wisdom and gain a greater sense of purpose; and ultimately,
- Students serve and learn beyond their school involvement.

The best partnerships are mutually beneficial and structured to connect individuals, not just institutions or groups. This connection enables the power of community partnerships to be unleashed.

Consider these questions when planning your program/projects/activities:

1. Does your PTA/PTSA distribute information regarding cultural, recreational, academic, health, social, and other resources that serve families within the community?
2. Does your PTA/PTSA develop partnerships with local businesses and service groups to advance student learning and assist schools and families?
3. Does your PTA/PTSA foster student participation in community service?
4. Does your PTA/PTSA involve community members in school volunteer programs?
5. Does your PTA/PTSA inform staff members of the resources available in the community and strategies for utilizing those resources?

6. Does your PTA/PTSA collaborate with community agencies to provide family support services and adult learning opportunities, enabling parents to more fully participate in activities that support education?

Sample programs:

- Partner with a sister PTA that is struggling; invite them to your event than assist them with orchestrating their own.
- Partner with other nonprofits agencies like United Way and Junior Achievement for youth leadership programs
- Collaborate with local churches and community organizations to provide quality after-school programs.
- Sponsor voter registration drives, mock elections or community recycling projects
- Host joint community PTA meetings with the elementary, middle/junior high and high schools to showcase what each offers.



Gwin G. Hughes Healthful Living Award for Local Units

The Gwin G. Hughes Healthful Living Award was established in April 2005 by the North Carolina PTA and the Hughes Family as a memorial to Mrs. Hughes, past NCPTA president, 1982-1986, and to encourage healthful living habits. This project must feature advocacy and activities that enhance or create child and school health programs that may include quality Health and Physical Education, school meals, staff wellness, a safe environment and family/community involvement.

Special consideration will be given to Units or Councils that provide advocacy and activities to address childhood obesity prevention that include: (1) health education and increasing access to healthy food choices, (2) limiting access to sugar sweetened beverages, (3) increasing access to safe places where children can play, (4) physical education and active play, or (5) limiting children’s screen time, including limits on video games, text messaging and television. Advocacy and activities may also include conversations with your Principal or School Board, letters in your PTA newsletter, or participation in advocacy meetings in your community.

All applications become the property of NCPTA and may be used on our website as a best practice. The recipient will receive an award at the NCPTA Parent Education Conference.

Outstanding Educator Award

Established in April 2000, the NCPTA Outstanding Educator Award recognizes service to the children of North Carolina and exceptional contributions to their education, health and welfare. The purpose of the award is to recognize and pay tribute to an educator who has made outstanding contributions in the field of education that benefited children and youth of North Carolina. Any PTA member, unit, or council may submit nominations. The nominee must be a member of a local PTA unit and current educator in the North Carolina public schools. The recipient(s) will receive an award at the NCPTA Parent Education Conference.

School Nurse Award



Purpose: To recognize school nurses for dedicated excellence to our children in school health through school nursing

Definition: "School nursing is a specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the well being, academic success, and life-long achievement of students. To that end, school nurses facilitate positive student responses to normal development; promote health and safety; intervene with actual and potential health problems; provide case management services; and actively collaborate with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self management, self advocacy, and learning." (National Association of School Nurses, June 1999)

Consider these questions when planning your program, projects and activities:

- Does the school nurse work with the PTA and/or school on upcoming PTA programs, projects and activities? (Standard 1)
 - Offering workshops for students and parents
 - Making sure that programs are health friendly
- Does the school nurse partner with the PTA and/or school to offer health fairs, health days or other specific health related activities? (Standard 1 and 6)
- Does the school nurse work with the administration to provide staff development concerning health and wellness? (Standard 2)
- Does the school nurse work with staff to ensure all student needs are being met? (Standard 2)
- Does the school nurse provide support groups for children suffering from allergies, asthma, diabetes, etc? (Standard 3)
- Does the school nurse partner with the school and school families to minimize school suspensions due to the required kindergarten assessment form and required immunizations? (Standard 3)
- Does the school nurse partner with the PTA and/or school to obtain needed supplies by reaching out to the community? (Standard 4 and 6)
 - AED
 - Medical supplies
 - Classroom first aid kits
- Does the school nurse actively work to improve communication between parents, staff and school nurse regarding student health needs, empowering the parent? (Standard 5)

Eligibility: All registered nurses working to improve student health outcomes through school nursing in partnership with the PTA and/or school

Requirements:

- Submit a summary, consisting of 500 words or less, describing the school nurse partnership and how school children benefit from this partnership
 - This may be an ongoing partnership or a specific project
- A school nurse may be nominated by anyone within the community
- The recipient will receive an award at the NCPTA Parent Education Conference.
- **You must apply online for this award by March 1**

PTA Council and Local Unit Achievement Award

The PTA Council and Local Unit Achievement Award is designed to recognize councils and local units that worked to promote the mission and vision of PTA.

Councils and local units must earn 250 points to receive this award. Recipients receive a certificate of recognition, be listed in the Parent Education Conference program, and on our website. Please review the following criteria for these awards.

Local Unit Evaluation & Achievement Award Report Form

Local unit and council PTAs qualify for an Achievement Award based on activities, programs, and accomplishments of their PTA. Qualification statements along with the point value of each are listed below for guidance in applying for this award.

You must earn 250 points to receive the Achievement Award Certificate

Units/councils receiving this certificate will be recognized in the NCPTA Parent Education Conference Program as well as on the NCPTA website.

You must apply online for this award by March 1 — 250 points are required

Local Unit Qualification Statements:

- PTA is in good standing (adopted Uniform Bylaws, online Financial Review submitted, National and State dues sent to the State Office, members entered into the NCPTA database **(25 points)**)
- 10% increase in membership over last year (earned Bronze Acorn award). **(10 points)**
- Applied for the Ruby Acorn Award. **(5 points)**
- Applied for the Silver Acorn Award. **(5 points)**
- Applied for the Gold Acorn Award. **(5 points)**
- Budget was printed and adopted by the members at a regular meeting of the membership. **(10 points)**
- Budget included expenses of: president or alternate to attend NCPTA Parent Education Conference **(10 points)**____; Leadership training **(10 points)**_____.
- Contents of Back to School Kit distributed to officers and committee chairmen for use in PTA work. **(15 points)**
- Active volunteer program in the school. **(20 points)**
- Implemented one or more projects of the State and National PTA programs. **(10 points)**
- Participated in Elected Officials Go to School. **(10 points)**
- Unit was represented at NCPTA Parent Education Conference **(5 points)** or Leadership training **(5 points)**
- Conducted orientation for new officers and committee chairman. **(15 points)**
- Made proper transfer of records and other materials from past officers/committee chairmen to new officers/committee chairmen. **(15 points)**
- Printed information from NCPTA and/or National PTA. **(10 points)**
- Utilized the services of State PTA either by using online services/website, phone, mail, Board member in attendance at a local meeting, or a visit to the State Office. **(5 points)**
- Participated in National Teacher Appreciation Week in May. **(10 points)**
- Presented NCPTA Distinguished Service Award. **(10 points)**
- Publicized and promoted participation (K-12) in the Reflections Program. **(20 points)**
- Nominated an educator for the Outstanding District Educator Award. **(10 points)**
- Applied for the Gwin G. Hughes Healthful Living Project Award. **(5 points)**
- Publicized and promoted the NCPTA Teacher Scholarship program **(5 points)**
- Publicized and promoted the State PTA Legislative Priorities **(5 points)**____; and the National PTA Legislative Priorities **(5 points)**_____.
- Contact state or national representatives on PTA positions on proposed legislation and/or budget. **(15 points)**
- Sent resolutions to State Office for consideration by delegates to annual convention. **(5 points)**
- Attended at least one school board meeting. **(10 points)**
- Applied for one of the Family Standards Awards. **(15 points)**

Council Qualification Statements:

- ___ Bylaws are current and online Financial Review submitted to the State Office. **(25 points)**
- ___ Budget was printed and adopted by member units at a regular membership meeting. **(10 points)**
- ___ Budget included expenses of president or alternate to attend the NCPTA Parent Education Conference. **(10 points)**___; Leadership training **(10 points)**___; other PTA sponsored workshops or conferences. **(10 points)**
- ___ Program, projects and other activities were planned to meet the needs of your community and member units. **(25 points)**
- ___ Reprinted information from the NCPTA National PTA. **(15 points)**
- ___ Council has made efforts to encourage the organization of PTA or PTSA units in schools not having units. **(15 points)**
- ___ Participated in Elected Officials Go to School. **(10 points)**
- ___ Conducted orientation workshops for new council officers and chairman. **(10 points)**
- ___ Conducted Leadership Training for officers and chairmen of member units. **(10 points)**
- ___ Utilized the services of State PTA, either by using online services/website, phone, mail, Board member in attendance at a local meeting, or a visit to the State Office. **(5 points)**
- ___ Council was represented at Annual Parent Education Conference **(10 points)**___; at State Leadership training **(10 points)**___; at other state PTA sponsored workshops or conferences **(10 points)**
- ___ Reminded member units of the privilege and responsibility of attending these events. **(10 points)**
- ___ Publicized and promoted State PTA Legislation Priorities **(10 points)**___; and National PTA Legislation Priorities **(10 points)**___.
- ___ Encouraged member units to be knowledgeable about and become involved in promotion of legislation priorities. **(10 points)**
- ___ Represented at school board meetings and/or other community meetings on education to keep informed on local education issues. **(15 points)**
- ___ Participated in National Teacher Appreciation Week. **(10 points)**
- ___ Presented NCPTA Distinguished Service Award to deserving individuals. **(10 points)**
- ___ Applied for Family-partnerships standards award. **(10 points)**
- ___ Publicized and promoted the NCPTA Teacher Scholarship Program. **(10 points)**
- ___ Publicized and promoted National PTA Reflections Program. **(20 points)**



Membership Enrollment Recognitions

Gold Acorn, Ruby Acorn, and Silver Acorn

March 1st Deadline

Gold Acorn:

Awarded to PTA units that have PTA membership equal to or greater than student enrollment and 100% of full-time teachers as members.

Ruby Acorn:

Awarded to PTA units that have all full-time teachers enrolled as PTA members.

Silver Acorn:

Awarded to PTA units who attain PTA membership equal to or greater than student enrollment.

Awards Determined by State Office Membership Records

(Local units do not have to apply for these awards)

Blue Key:

Certificate awarded to units who send membership dues to the State Office by October 15.



Gold Key:

Certificate awarded to Blue Key recipients who send an additional 25 members' dues to the State Office by January 15.

Honor Roll:

PTA units whose total number of members are equal to or greater than previous year's membership and sent to the State Office postmarked by November 15. The recipients are recognized on the NCPTA website.

Bronze Acorn:

Certificates are awarded to PTA units who send in dues postmarked by March 15 showing a 10% increase in membership over the previous year.

President's Membership Bowl:

This prestigious award is presented at the Annual State Convention to the PTA unit with the highest percentage increase in membership over the previous year. The award is determined by dues received by March 15. The unit's name and year presented are engraved on the silver bowl which may be displayed at the PTA school from convention until March of the following year when it is returned to the State Office.

NCPTA Distinguished Service Award

The NCPTA Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor the State PTA can bestow. It is an especially significant way to honor those persons in your school, community, and state who have given outstanding service to youth and children.



This award may be conferred on a deserving person for distinguished service to or on behalf of children and youth. Any parent-teacher division, (local, council, or district) or an individual PTA member may honor individuals in this significant way. The recipient need not be a member of a PTA. The presentation of a Distinguished Service Award is a special occasion. It may be presented at any time during the year. It is especially appropriate to make the presentation a highlight of a PTA Founders Day program, the closing meeting of the PTA year, or a district meeting. You may request a NCPTA Distinguished Service Award by mailing the completed order form along with the required fee of \$50 to the NCPTA State Office.

We also have available an attractive pin, rolled in gold at a cost of \$15. The order form is available at www.ncpta.org under the Awards section.

Visit www.ncpta.org for additional information.

North Carolina
PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.