

## Advantages of Being a PTA

The chief advantage of PTA over independent parent groups is PTA's potential for unified action - a unified voice on major issues, a unified push for improved legislation, an opportunity to act as a forum for ideas, and a chance to meet with others and discuss mutual concerns.

Hours spent in research at the local level on problems that need actions and solutions will be saved because information is available by e-mail, regular mail or by telephone to the NC PTA or the National PTA. NC PTA and the National PTA maintain toll-free telephone numbers and Web sites to provide local units ready access to information and answers to questions. Both State and National PTA work in cooperation with other child advocacy groups, thus providing additional resources for PTA members.

PTA was established in 1897 - over 100 years ago. Though many persons do not understand the full scope of the work of the PTA, they realize that PTA represents a force in the nation that speaks for all children.

PTA policies are adopted only after much study and discussion. This procedure ensures that units receive the most up-to-date information to use in their policy and decision-making. The policies are the guiding principles that all levels of PTA must follow if the organization is to continue to follow the Mission and work within the Purposes of the PTA.

### **PTA membership gives individual units:**

- Name recognition as part of a National organization
- Access to grant monies
- Student and Teacher scholarships
- Informed and trained leadership
- Training for local leaders
- Publications and Web page and e-mail alerts
- Current information on pending legislation
- Volunteer legislative advocates
- 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt status
- Conferences and workshops
- Recognition and awards for outstanding local programs and individuals
- Exchange of information throughout the State and Nation
- Representatives from State and National PTA available to assist
- Strength in numbers
- Unified voices influencing public action

Not all problems can be solved in the local community. As part of a State and National Congress, the local association extends its influence beyond its neighborhood and helps to secure state and national action for children's benefit. America's population is a mobile one with families moving from one community to another, from state to state. Therefore, PTA cannot afford a merely local outlook. Through PTA we help to assure quality schools and opportunities for all children and youth across the nation.

When you join PTA, you immediately become a member of the National Organization whose sole purpose is dedicated to service for all children and youth.

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