

## Harnessing the power of volunteers

Shrinking budgets. Curriculum cuts. Increasing class sizes. Government mandates. The challenges of delivering a high-quality education are daunting, to say the least. There is help. And the good news is it won't cost your school anything. It's PTA.

You can depend on PTA to strengthen the partnership between home and school. We provide the structure for training, develop best practices, and issue resolutions.

National PTA—the original parent involvement group in schools—has concerned itself with the education, health, and welfare of children and youth for more than 100 years. We are the largest parent involvement organization in the nation—nearly 6 million parents and other concerned adults committed to our nation's children and public schools. Our members work with school administrators, teachers, and community leaders to provide all children with a high-quality education and the opportunity to succeed in school and beyond.

What's more, it won't take much of your time to get a PTA started. Find just one parent in your school to take the lead and before you know it, you'll have a group of dedicated parents committed to doing what PTA does best—providing resources and programs to all families.

## About PTA

National PTA comprises nearly 6 million parents and concerned adults devoted to the educational success of children and promoting parent involvement in schools. National PTA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that prides itself on being a powerful voice for children, a relevant resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education. Membership in National PTA is open to anyone who is concerned with the education, health, and welfare of children and youth.



*everychild.one voice.*®

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## Why Your School Needs a PTA

*How a Local PTA Can Help Your School Achieve More*

**National**  
**PTA**  
*everychild.one voice.*®

## PTAs benefit everyone

PTAs address issues that are important to public school administrators and parents. We fight for the same things—full funding for education and child-related programs, quality teachers, and the capability for schools to thrive.

If your school or district does not have a school-based PTA, now is the time to start one. Membership is open to everyone. While your PTA would be independently run and set its own dues, it would be supported by a national structure.

Still need convincing? Here are eight benefits of having a PTA.

- 1. Leverage volunteer power.** Parents are ready and willing to help implement school improvement programs. Because PTA is a national organization with tremendous recognition, local units attract individuals with leadership skills—many times with business experience in a variety of disciplines.
- 2. Improve communications.** Frequently, one of the PTA's responsibilities is keeping the entire school community informed of current events, issues, and accomplishments. In addition, regularly scheduled meetings are an opportunity for you to share information with members.
- 3. See measurable results.** More than 85 rigorous academic research studies indicate that kids do better when parents are involved. Grades are higher. Test scores improve. Attendance increases. Research points to these real, beneficial outcomes.
- 4. Discover more dollars.** Local PTAs are self-funding. Local PTAs often organize fundraising events, the proceeds from which support school-based programs, building maintenance and improvements, and educational and social events that build a closer school community among students, parents, and faculty.

- 5. Tap into programs.** From health and safety topics to collaborating with teachers and community members to fundraising, PTA programs are ready to use and produce results. **The Reflections Program** is the largest arts competition in the nation for schoolchildren. Many schools use it as an enhancement to art instruction provided at no cost to the school. National PTA's *National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs*—endorsed by nearly 100 education, health, and parent involvement organizations—is the basis for our **Building Successful Partnerships** program. National PTA provides presenters to give workshops that encourage collaboration among all stakeholders in a child's education: parents, educators, and the community. The National Standards also led to the creation of **Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence Certification**, designed to promote and acknowledge great parent involvement in schools. **Three for Me** encourages parents to get involved in their children's education by volunteering three hours to school-related activities.
- 6. Boost children's well-being.** PTAs focus on what children need to be successful students, including good nutrition, health, and overall well-being.

Whether the issue is school safety, physical fitness, or healthy breakfasts, PTA works with school administrators to ensure that children are prepared to succeed.

- 7. Collaborate with informed parents.** Involved parents understand the challenges schools face and become part of the solution. They support improving education, both locally and legislatively. PTAs also can help parents overcome barriers to being involved in their children's schools. By developing a closer relationship with parents, schools experience increased student achievement.
- 8. Fulfill NCLB obligations.** PTAs can help schools fulfill the parent involvement requirement of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). PTA understands the needs behind NCLB. In fact, it's National PTA's definition of parent involvement that is used in NCLB. Having a PTA often satisfies the law's conditions.

## Learn how easy it is to start a PTA

Contact National PTA's membership director at (800) 307-4PTA (4782) Ext. 309, or e-mail [newpta@pta.org](mailto:newpta@pta.org).

