

## Family Engagement

PTA offers access to resources and research that engage families and the community in meaningful and relevant ways, ensuring every child's potential is a reality.

The National PTA School of Excellence program enriches the educational experience for all students by providing a customized roadmap to achieve the National Standards for Family-School Partnership.

The six, research-based standards identified include:

- Welcoming All Families
- Communicating Effectively
- Supporting Student Success
- Speaking Up for Every Child
- Sharing Power
- Collaborating with Community

*"There is a positive and convincing relationship between family involvement and student success."*

In the research review *A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement*, Anne T. Henderson and Karen L. Mapp concluded that there is a positive and convincing relationship between family involvement and student success, regardless of race/ethnicity, class, or parents' level of education.

Their recommendations were the basis for an update to PTAs National Standards for Family-School Partnership and are available to all PTAs.

## Advocacy

PTA is the largest member-based association in the United States that advocates exclusively for children -*all children*. As the second largest state PTA, Texas PTA has a rich history of successful advocacy efforts.

Recent legislative successes include:

- Bullying and Cyberbullying Legislation
- E-Cigarette Restrictions
- Sales Tax Holiday Expansion
- Cell Phone Prohibition for Driving Teens
- Lessening emphasis on standardized tests
- Increasing emphasis of community and student input on assessments

Our work is not done! We must show up in big numbers. School funding will be a huge issue this session.



Historic legislative successes include:

- More stringent laws concerning sex offenders
- Strengthening and enforcing teacher certification standards
- Increasing funding for public education
- Public kindergarten programs
- School lunch program
- School zone speed law
- Requiring seat belts for all children ages 4-15
- Juvenile justice reform
- Graduated Driver's License

## Developing Parents as Partners

PTA offers free programs to help parents, teachers and students partner to successfully navigate their way through the complexities of life and the modern public education system.

Topics include:

- distracted driving
- college and financial planning
- bullying
- internet safety
- successful parenting strategies
- children with special needs
- arts in education
- awards
- scholarships

Texas PTA also offers a robust series of job specific, leadership, and organizational management training, empowering volunteers to be partners in guaranteeing excellence in public education.

## Association Management Support

By the authority of National PTA, Texas PTA charters PTAs providing access to all the benefits of being part of a national and state association including access to: brand usage rights, automatic consideration for unique IRS tax identification number, and all support and training necessary to be a successful PTA.

- Multifaceted support structure for volunteers and staff
- Governance guidelines
- Unique governing documents
- Interpretation of IRS regulations and requirements

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PTA is a noncommercial, nonsectarian, nonpartisan, 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. PTA is

- ✓ a proven model for sustainable family engagement
- ✓ an advocate for relevant issues important to parents and schools
- ✓ a champion of encouraging parents as partners
- ✓ a local, state and national association able to focus on issues impacting students at all levels

**Texas PTA Mission: To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.**