

[If you're having trouble viewing this email, click here.](#)

PTA CONNECTS

California State PTA Online Newsletter

September 2013

[Español](#)

[Forms](#)

[PTA Materials](#)

[PTA Store](#)

[Students](#)

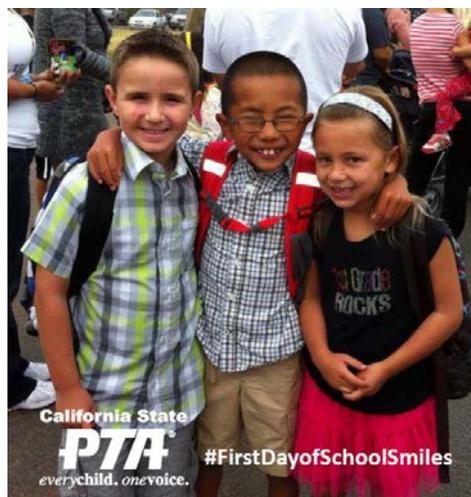
Para leer este PTA Connects en español, haga clic [aquí](#).

PTA Connects Families and Schools

This back-to-school season, California State PTA has been working to promote the importance of PTA and family engagement.

This includes sharing lots of great [resources and tips](#), and featuring PTA leaders in the media. Take a look at some of the ways we're getting the message out about the value of family engagement in the [media](#).

We've also teamed up with other organizations to spread the word about PTA. For instance, starting this month, McDonald's will be featuring our key message, "PTA Connects Families and Schools – Join PTA," on tray liners in all of its California restaurants.



Additionally, PTA partnered with the NFL to launch the "Back to Sports" campaign to focus on youth fitness. Take a look at hosting a "Back to Sports" Night. [Download an event planning toolkit for your PTA.](#)

Celebrating the Start of School

All this month, PTA is also celebrating the excitement of the back-to-school season on Facebook. You can join the celebration, too! Simply post your photos from the start of school to the [California State PTA Facebook page](#).

You can also discover some great resources and craft projects on our "Back-to-School" [Pinterest](#) Board.

Encourage Friends and Family to Support PTA

As a PTA member, you understand the key role that PTA plays in supporting your child's education and school. The back-to-school season is a great time to encourage your friends and family members to support your local PTA as well.

In addition to helping ensure the important voice of parents is heard at the local, state and national level, PTA members receive exclusive perks. Learn more about the [benefits of belonging to PTA](#) including exclusive [member perks](#).

Increase Male Involvement in Your PTA

Don't forget about Dad! Studies prove students excel when dads are involved. [Download a few tips to help increase male involvement in your PTA.](#)



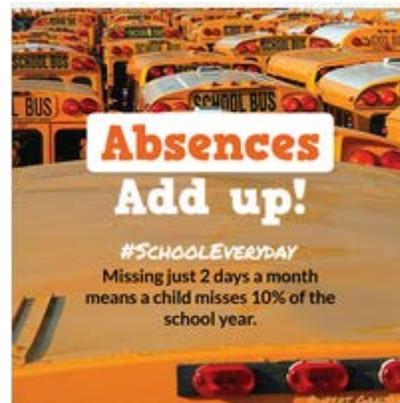
Common Core State Standards - What You Should Be Asking

New state standards, called Common Core State Standards (CCSS), are on the way for all students in California beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. These standards provide clear, consistent expectations for what each student must know to leave school prepared for college and careers. [Learn more about what this means for your child.](#)

Start talking with your child's teacher and principal to find out when the new standards will be implemented in your school. Ask how the teachers are being trained and what you as a parent can do to support the transition. Encourage your school district to hold meetings focusing on what the standards are and how they will help California's children succeed.

September is Attendance Awareness Month

Did you know that missing just 10 percent of the school year in the early grades can leave many students struggling throughout elementary school? Or that by 6th grade, missing that much school is strongly linked to course failure and even eventually dropping out of high school? That's just 18 days — or two to three days per month. Every school day counts, and everyone can make a difference: parents, educators, afterschool programs, mayors and business leaders.



This month, rally your school community around the importance of attendance and its role in academic achievement as part of the first-ever **Attendance Awareness Month**. For more information, visit AttendanceWorks.org.

Scholarship and Grant Opportunities

Did you know **Continuing Education Scholarships** of \$500 are available for PTA volunteers, teachers, counselors and school nurses? Applications are due November 15. [Learn more.](#)

Scholarships are also available for **Graduating High School Seniors**. Students who are PTA members at a PTA high school, and involved in outstanding volunteer service can apply for a scholarship to continue their education at an accredited college. Applications are due February 1. [Learn more.](#)

PTA Program Grants

Plus, your PTA can earn grants to help fund programs supporting student success at your school. PTAs may apply for a grant (on average \$500-\$2,000 awarded) in four areas: Cultural Arts, Parent Education, Outreach Translation and Healthy Lifestyles. Applications are due November 15. [Learn more.](#)

Reflections Art Program

Encourage your students to express themselves creatively as part of the [Reflections Art Program](#). Create an original dance or short film, sing a song, compose music, write a story or a poem, take a photograph, paint or draw a picture. Check with your school to find out when students' Reflections Program artwork is due. You can also encourage your student to participate in the National PTA Reflections Program [theme search](#).

Turn your passion into action with a PTA Resolution

Intent to Submit Deadline: October 1

PTA advocates for the health, safety and well-being of all children. If you are passionate about an issue on which you think PTA should focus, you can make it happen. One way to turn your passion into action is by submitting a PTA resolution and having it adopted by delegates to our annual convention in 2014.

Talk to your PTA president, and ask to have your issue put on the meeting agenda. You can express your ideas and concerns, and encourage your PTA to write a resolution. The Intent to Submit deadline is October 1. [Get started on writing and submitting a PTA resolution.](#)

Contact us at resolutions@capta.org with any questions.

California State PTA "Connects" is sent monthly to all PTA members and leaders.

[E-mail & Website Policy](#)
[Manage Subscriptions](#)
[Unsubscribe](#)

www.capta.org