

# What Your PTA Can Do to Promote STEM Education (Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics)



## NO COST

- Advocate for additional course offerings and opportunities for your children at their school and for STEM fields to be a priority in the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).
- Find PTA members who work in STEM fields and arrange for them to speak with classes about opportunities in these areas.
- Work with your school staff to start a math club or science club or computer club, looking to particularly encourage membership by girls and groups often underrepresented in these fields.
- Ask a high school math/science teacher to come speak at your middle school PTA meeting about the courses offered and what the different four-year plans might be in STEM classes.
- Distribute the "Online STEM Activities and Reference Sources" handout on paper or electronically to parents and teachers at your school.
- Organize a career fair where local employers and community members speak about what their jobs are like and what jobs can be found in the area.
- Arrange with your elementary school principal to start a student garden on campus with seeds and materials donated by a local garden center.
- See if volunteer help would allow your school computer lab to be open after or before school for children to have more time.
- Serve on a textbook adoption committee to examine potential instructional materials in the STEM fields.
- Work together on free online lessons in computer coding or try out experiments you find on reputable websites, and then write an article for your PTA newsletter or website about how to learn with your child.
- Co-sponsor a grant application with your school to set up science lab equipment or purchase computers.
- Put together a list of local nature reserves, hands-on museums, aquariums, and other family-friendly STEM-related activities. Distribute the list through your email list serve or newsletter.
- Print up the PTA *Parents' Guide To Student Success* for each grade level from the California State PTA website and bring them to a PTA meeting, giving examples of ways parents can support their child's education in Common Core mathematics.

## Cost-Associated Ideas

- Organize an evening or after-school event with an outside vendor for students and their parents. For example, astronomy night with telescopes, science night with small experiments, engineering night with building a circuit.
- Subsidize a field trip with scientific significance--whale watch, planetarium, etc.
- Sponsor an assembly on a topic related to STEM.



California State PTA believes every child should have access to quality education in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). California State PTA works to support efforts to improve STEM education, enabling more students to acquire skills for access to higher education and employment in the 21st century workforce.