

# Why Your School Needs a



PTA leaders are here to help you every step of the way in starting a PTA at your school. The process includes:

- 1 Initial inquiry or interest in becoming a PTA is referred to the district PTA that covers the geographical area of the school.
- 2 The district PTA leadership presents general information at a meeting of the school community which includes the principal, staff and parents where questions are answered and consent to move forward is sought.
- 3 Volunteers choose to serve on a steering committee that is responsible for planning and advertising the organization meeting, completing the bylaws and creating a nominating committee that will present a slate of officers to be elected at the organization meeting. Orientation and training will be provided throughout this process so that the new PTA can function effectively as soon as it is organized.
- 4 At the organization meeting, charter members will join, bylaws are adopted and officers will be elected.
- 5 The district organizers will complete and submit various paperwork.
- 6 The district PTA will continue to offer training opportunities and ongoing support for the new PTA during its first year.

## Why PTA?

### What's in it for schools?

PTAs promote the building of a broad base of parent and community involvement. When parents and community members work as equal partners to improve schools, it is shown that positive results include:

- Upgraded school facilities;
- Improved school leadership and staffing;
- Resources to improve teaching and the curriculum;
- Funding for after-school programs and family supports; and
- Higher-quality learning programs.

### What's in it for students?

Thirty years of research prove that students do better when parents are involved. No matter what their income or background, students are more likely to:

- Earn higher grades and test scores;
- Enroll in higher-level programs;
- Be promoted, pass their classes and earn credits;
- Attend school regularly;
- Have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school; and
- Graduate and go on to post-secondary education.

### How is this accomplished?

PTA benefits include:

- Organized and passionate volunteers advocating for children;
- Improved communication within the school community;
- Access to ready-made and easy-to-use programs;
- Involved and informed parents who understand the challenges; that schools face and become part of the solution; and
- A voice to ensure that issues important to the school community are addressed.

*PTA wants what is best for ALL children*



There are many types of parent groups out there, but there is only one PTA. Part of school and family life for more than 115 years, PTA is the defining organization for family engagement.

### **PTA** is unique!

- PTA demonstrates how one person can make a difference by working with others.
- PTA reflects the professionalism of its volunteers.
- PTA provides extensive training.
- PTA continues to be the strongest advocate in the state and nation for children and youth.

### **PTA** offers:

- Programs and grants
- Guidance, resources and timely information
- Leadership development, tools and training
- Support and guidance in meeting state and federal requirements for non-profit organizations.
- A PTA insurance policy that costs a fraction of what similar coverage would cost individually.
- Exclusive grants and awards for students, teachers and more.

With all this behind them, PTAs are equipped to run their units locally, to best serve their schools.

Do you want to learn more about PTA?  
Is your school community interested in what PTA has to offer?

#### **Visit:**

California State PTA at [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org)

National PTA at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

To speak further with someone about the benefits of PTA or to receive additional information, please contact: [leadership@capta.org](mailto:leadership@capta.org) or:

The mission of California State PTA:

*To positively impact the lives of all children and families.*