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Para leer en español, clic [aquí](#).

NEW YEAR, NEW IDEAS FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

History and common sense show us that when a family is engaged in a child's education, they are more successful. Here are some great ideas for family-school engagement for 2020, taken from PTAs across the state:



- **"Pastries with Parents"** is a great way for parents to connect with the principal and staff, and is also a perfect time to ask them to join the PTA. Don't be afraid to brag to them about all your events.
- To showcase all of the extracurricular programs at your school, plan a **"Shine a Light Night."** This creates awareness of the range of activities available, and gives families and children opportunities to get involved.
- **A family arts night** is a great way to promote PTA's Reflections art program. Invite a choir to sing and a band to play while adults and children find their creative side.
- To allow kids (and nervous parents) to meet the teacher and fellow classmate and help lessen first-day jitters, plan a **Kindergarten Jumpstart!** This meet-and-greet opportunity before the first day of school also gives the PTA an opportunity to pitch a table and recruit new members.
- For Valentine's Day, plan a **"Loved Ones Day."** Ask students to invite any one of their loved ones (family members, neighbors, friends) to join them for a picnic on campus.

We've got loads more ideas in latest issue of **PTA in California**, whose theme is "Family Engagement!" Click [here](#) to read it!

BECOME A NATIONAL PTA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

What is a School of Excellence? It is a recognition program that supports and celebrates partnerships between PTAs and schools that have helped enrich the educational experience and overall well-being of students.



SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

19 California schools were designated **National PTA Schools of Excellence** in the 2019-2021 term. Could your child's school be among the next round of winners?

If your school is interested in becoming a School of Excellence next term, start talking to your team and administrators now! **Enrollment opens on May 1**, and requires a year-long commitment to identify and implement an action plan to improve your school based on PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships and Transformative Family Engagement. Those schools that exhibit the most improvement are honored as National PTA Schools of Excellence. Honorees receive celebration tools, and automatic consideration for the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Award and a \$2,000 grant for their school.

Learn more about the School of Excellence program and what it takes to be a winner at [PTA.org/Excellence](https://pta.org/excellence). Click [here](#) to see the list of recent winners.

HELP US SECURE THE FUNDING WE NEED TO SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN!

In 2020, two important school funding measures are facing California voters. We urge you to vote for both of them, because the billions of dollars they will raise will not only improve the safety and infrastructure of school facilities, but will also allow districts to fund a full curriculum, which includes science and arts education.



The Public Preschool, K-12, and College Health and Safety Bond Act of 2020 (also known as Proposition 13-2020) will raise \$9 billion for the K-12 system and \$2 billion for each of the three higher education segments (UC, CSU, and Community Colleges) to construct and modernize school facilities. It will appear on the March 3, 2020 ballot. Click [here](#) to read more about it on the CAPTA website – you'll find a summary of the measure and links to useful documents, including the full text of the measure and the California State PTA Study Committee Report.

The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2020 (also known as the "split roll" initiative), will raise approximately \$12 billion in annual funds for public education, local governments and community services by reassessing and taxing certain commercial properties at current market value. The initiative will appear on the November 2020 statewide ballot if it gets enough signatures to qualify by April 14. Click [here](#) to read more about the initiative on CAPTA's website, including how to sign the petition and how to volunteer to collect signatures.

TAKE ACTION!

Honorary Service Awards available in PTA Store!

Grants to Help Build Your PTA



Arts Data Poll Question





Units are invited to apply for a monetary donation from the Smart & Final Charitable Foundation.

[READ MORE](#)

Help our arts education advocates by telling us what you know about your school's arts data.

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

Give an award to an individual or organization who has offered outstanding service to your community.

[SHOP NOW](#)

This email is being sent to all PTA members and leaders, as well as to all California principals and superintendents.

This message was sent to deckman@capta.org by californiastatepta@capta.org
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