

# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

## PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

Whether you are reading together, monitoring homework at the kitchen table, talking with teachers about a child's progress, joining PTA or involved in school governance and decision-making, a supportive family environment that values education is vital to student achievement.

Effective family engagement is a **shared** responsibility in which:

- Schools and PTAs engage families in **meaningful** and **culturally respectful ways**.
- Families are committed to actively supporting their children's learning and development.
- Engagement in education – both school/community outreach and family support – begins in early childhood to continues through college and career

As a PTA leader, you can boost family engagement on your campus by relying on **PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships**. The standards offer a blueprint on how to connect families and schools to support student success.

To get started, align your PTA communications and programs and to the six standards:

1. **Welcome All Families** – With activities for families to feel they belong at your school.
2. **Communicate Effectively** – With pathways for families and staff to engage in regular, two-way communication.
3. **Support Student Success** – With family activities linked to student learning and development.
4. **Speak Up for Every Child** – With workshops on the education system and advocacy for parents to ensure all students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities.
5. **Share Power** – With community surveys and forums for stakeholders to exchange views and shape school policies, practices and programs.
6. **Collaborate with the Community** – With activities to expand access to learning opportunities, community services and civic participation.

When families, schools and communities work together, all students have an opportunity to thrive in school and beyond. A booklet is available that summarizes the six standards and includes a sampling of indicators for each. PTA also has comprehensive **Assessment Guide** that provides a framework for developing and improving programs, practices, and policies that affect family and community engagement in schools.

*Get more information in the new booklet online at <http://capta.org/focus-areas/family-engagement/family-school-partnerships/>. Download the summary for full assessment guide.*

More resources are available at <http://pta.org/nationalstandards>.

National Standards for Family-School Partnerships



**PTA**  
empowering voices

## School Smarts Parent Engagement Program



School Smarts is California State PTA's award-winning, research-based parent engagement program. This seven-session Parent Academy empowers parents of all backgrounds by focusing on the importance of parent involvement, how the education system works and how to communicate effectively to advocate for a quality education to support student success. The curriculum is available in six languages. Email [schoolsmarts@capta.org](mailto:schoolsmarts@capta.org) to learn more.

## Additional PTA Resources and Activities to Build Family Engagement

- **Family Engagement Guide for PTA Leaders** – Information on family engagement, growing family-school partnerships that enhance student achievement and support student success and learning at home. *Available in English and Spanish.* Also available as a print brochure for purchase (**Family Engagement Pocket Pal**).
- **California State PTA Website** – Provides tips on family-school partnerships, parents' rights, dad involvement, supporting student learning at home, early-childhood learning, college readiness and more.
- **California State PTA Toolkit** – Comprehensive reference for PTA leaders. Includes job descriptions for family engagement chairman, volunteer coordinator, room representative and room representative coordinator.
- **LCFF/LCAP Quick Guides** – Brief overviews of the eight state priority areas including parent engagement, how progress is measured, key questions to ask in reviewing your school district's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and links to more resources. Learn more and download our resources (English and Spanish).
- **National PTA School of Excellence** – A family engagement program based on building a partnership between your PTA and school. The program supports student success and enriches the educational experience and well-being of all students. [pta.org](http://pta.org)
- **Take Your Family to School Week (mid-February)** – Online tips at [pta.org](http://pta.org) help you plan and market this annual event to build parent-teacher partnerships and connect parents to their children's school experiences.
- **National PTA Family Reading Experience (March)** – Toolkit to plan an interactive event during National Reading Month that engages the whole family in reading activities. [pta.org](http://pta.org)

## PTA Family Engagement Grants and Awards

- **California State PTA Grants** – Designed to help PTAs make a difference in our communities. These annual grants fund PTA initiatives in four key areas: Parent Education, Cultural Arts, Outreach Translation and Healthy Lifestyles. [capta.org](http://capta.org)
- **Spotlight Award in Family Engagement** – Recognizes and shares outstanding family engagement programs and practices that bring innovative initiatives and services to our kids and schools. [capta.org](http://capta.org)
- **National Jan Harp Domene Diversity & Inclusion Award** – Recognizes PTAs for outstanding achievement in the areas of diversity and inclusion and efforts to end discriminatory practices. [pta.org](http://pta.org)
- **Phoebe Apperson Hearst Awards** – National PTA program to celebrate achievements in building effective family-school partnerships and family-engagement initiatives. Provides cash prizes. [pta.org](http://pta.org)