

The Benefits of Partnerships

Together PTA and the school superintendent can work toward a quality education for all children by developing a working partnership, communicating with each other, sharing in the decision making and mobilizing the community to action.

The Need for a Real Partnership

Today, there is an undeniable need for parents and the superintendent to work together to build strong partnerships in education. In PTA, parents and the superintendent work to improve education and the well-being of children and youth.

With nearly one million members in California, PTA is both the largest and the most active child advocacy organization in the state. PTA volunteers are part of a network unlike any other parent organization. As such, they have extensive resources and impact when advocating for improved education within a community.

Parents/Guardians are a child's first educator and school partner
Parents/Guardians share responsibility for their children's education by:

- Sending to school a child who is ready and eager to learn, self-disciplined and prepared to accept the authority of school staff.
- Seeking the advice of teachers to understand their children's growth and learning—and sharing information that will help school staff plan for their children.
- Showing commitment to education by attending parent-teacher conferences, open houses, PTA meetings, student concerts and other school programs, whenever possible.
- Attending programs to learn about current issues and trends in education.
- Understanding and working for the passage of school measures.
- Learning about and actively supporting school programs, curriculum, regulations and procedures.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION:

The Superintendent and PTA

California State
PTA

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Partnership, teamwork and cooperation are the building blocks of education leadership today. The school superintendent and PTA form an effective partnership to achieve quality public education.

The superintendent serves as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the school district. The superintendent interacts with the school board, site administrators, parents, community leaders, teachers and students. A good working partnership between PTA and the school superintendent enhances opportunities for quality education for young people.

PTA as an organization is devoted to the well-being of all children and families. It provides parents, teachers and students with the means to participate and work with the superintendent. At the same time, PTA helps the superintendent become informed about the community and the needs of children and families.

The superintendent's role

The superintendent presents the school board with a vision to help identify goals for the school district. Together, the superintendent and school board prioritize education goals and objectives.

Official duties

- The superintendent receives general directions and outlines of goals and policies from the school board.
- The superintendent organizes staff to accomplish these goals and policies and evaluates staff efforts.

- The superintendent presents recommendations to the school board at the annual budget meetings.
- In addition to school board policy, federal/state laws govern the superintendent's actions.

Note: In communities where site-based management is in place, decision-making and staff responsibilities may be delegated differently.

Superintendent and PTA as education leaders

- Build positive community relationships to support public schools.
- Bring together community members to support public education.
- Form coalitions, as needed, for action regarding education issues.

Building a partnership with PTA

The PTA and the school superintendent have a common goal—quality education. Reaching this goal takes a team effort of parents, teachers and administrators working together.

In achieving this partnership, both the superintendent and PTA have important roles to play.

Superintendent

State law requires school boards to develop policies for parent involvement. The superintendent sets the tone for how such policies are implemented. PTA is critical to this implementation, since it represents a broad base of parents and community members.

The superintendent can help the partnership succeed by:

- Implementing school district policies on parent involvement.
- Sharing school district parent/community involvement policies and procedures.
- Listening to parents.
- Strongly encouraging all schools to have a PTA and helping PTA organize one, if necessary.
- Requiring PTA and community participation in school-wide and district-wide advisory groups and committees.
- Sharing the decision-making process with parents, teachers and students, where applicable.
- Providing school board agendas, administrative agendas and action items to the PTA.
- Assisting site administrators and PTA officers in developing a working relationship.
- Meeting and conferring with the PTA and other community groups at their meetings.
- Assigning key administrators to represent the superintendent to meet with PTA and community groups.
- Working with elected officials on matters that concern children.

- Making it a priority to involve the community in addressing school district issues.

- Helping the community identify education-related areas of interest, concern and need.

- Documenting PTA input to the school board.
- Recognizing PTA's involvement.
- Becoming an active PTA member.

PTA

By joining together the voices of parents, teachers and community members, the PTA becomes a powerful partner with the superintendent in working for quality education.

The PTA can help the partnership succeed by:

- Becoming familiar with school policies and procedures.
- Understanding and using administrative channels.
- Knowing the different responsibilities and roles of the board, superintendent and site administrator.
- Setting priorities and goals each year and sharing these with the superintendent.
- Involving people who will participate actively on committees and task forces.
- Mobilizing coalitions, when necessary, to achieve education goals to support school issues.