



2023-24 Advancing Family-School Partnerships Challenge Grant

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 11:59 p.m. PT

Submit applications online: <https://familyengagement.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/36/home>

National PTA's Center for Family Engagement is excited to invite district/council/region PTAs to apply for the **2023-2024 Advancing Family-School Partnerships Challenge Grant**. This is a great opportunity for PTAs to live out our mission of making every child's potential a reality by developing strong and meaningful family-school partnerships.

Background Information

Family engagement has been at the heart of National PTA's mission since the association's founding in 1897. Parents and their children are the primary consumers of our nation's public education system, and over 40 years of data shows that family engagement in schools has a drastic impact on student achievement and school improvement. However, many states and school districts need to make more investments in family engagement and ensure parents have a seat at the table when decisions are made and work with parents and families as partners throughout the school year.

The [National Standards for Family-School Partnerships](#) set the bar for how schools and families work together to support student success. The PTA National Standards have contributed to greater awareness and capacity for improving family-school partnerships across the country and internationally for over 20 years.

About the Grant

National PTA's Center for Family Engagement, through GoGuardian's generous sponsorship, will fund up to eight district/council/region PTAs to push for the adoption of PTA's National Standards at the district-level through our **Advancing Family-School Partnerships Challenge Grant**.

The **2023-2024 Advancing Family-School Partnerships Challenge Grantees** will be provided with \$2,000 to adopt the updated National Standards for Family-School Partnerships through systems change approaches. District, council and region PTA grantees will analyze the power



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dynamics found in their communities to determine who are decisionmakers (those who can create or change policy), messengers (those who can convince decisionmakers to create or change policy) and partners (those who can collaborate to bring power to your policy ask).

After determining where power lies within their locality, grantees will select an advocacy path to mobilize their community around the adoption of the updated National Standards for Family-School Partnerships by their school district and/or board of education. Grantees will choose between providing testimony to their identified decisionmaker(s), raising public awareness through a media outreach campaign with their identified messenger(s) or coordinating a joint awareness-building event with their identified partner(s). Each advocacy pathway is designed to amplify the voice of PTA by generating a grassroots movement around effective and meaningful family-school partnerships.

Our grantee cohort will collaborate with one another on monthly community of practice meetings, where they will:

- Learn more about the updated National Standards for Family-School Partnerships
- Develop a working knowledge of best practices for district-level advocacy
- Interact with National PTA staff and partners

2023-2024 Advancing Family-School Partnerships Challenge Grantees have the opportunity for grant renewal come next year based on their contributions, progression and desire to continue the work.

Please apply if your PTA wants to:

- Learn about the updated National Standards for Family-School Partnerships and how they can transform school communities
 - Discover how the PTA National Standards can advance diversity, equity and inclusion goals
 - Explore the role of PTAs in creating community change using the PTA National Standards
- Promote the adoption and implementation of the PTA National Standards at the district level by
 - Assessing opportunities in your community to move family-school partnership work forward
 - Building partnerships with school boards, city councils, state education agencies and other government agencies



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- Mobilizing your community to learn about the PTA National Standards and engage in related opportunities
- Connecting with other PTAs and community organizations to share how the PTA National Standards can enhance family engagement practices
- Identifying and sharing best practices in family-school partnerships in their own communities

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to apply for the Advancing Family-School Partnerships Challenge Grant?

Any district, council or region PTA in good standing.

How many grantees will be chosen and how will they be selected?

Up to eight PTAs will be awarded the *Advancing Family-School Partnerships Challenge Grant*.

Applicants who submit a written or video application by Oct. 4 will be scored by PTA volunteer leader and staff reviewers. Following this review, grantees will be selected.

What are the selection criteria for the Advancing Family-School Partnerships Challenge Grant?

- **Previous experience.** Grantees bring insights from their own advocacy experiences to help guide their system change efforts. They believe that PTAs function as collective voices to enable students to succeed.
- **Partnership and coalition building.** Grantees are committed to building collaborative partnerships between families and schools. They believe that to strengthen family-school partnerships, robust coalitions must be established.
- **Readiness.** Grantees are committed to family engagement as a priority focus area in their districts. They believe their district is ready to and/or actively contributing to authentic family engagement.

What is the time commitment for the Advancing Family-School Partnerships Challenge Grant?

Grantees will be required to attend one 90 min cohort meeting each month. Meetings will take place in the evening to accommodate participants' schedules.

Grantees should expect to do 3-4 hours of work per month outside of the cohort meetings.



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I have never written a grant/fellowship application before. How do I do this?

Check out National PTA's [Top Grant Writing Tips Infographic](#).

Selection Timeline

- Aug. 29 – applications open
- Oct. 4 at 11:59 p.m. PT – all applications must be submitted
- Late-October – grantees selected

SAVE THE DATE

- Early-November – two-hour orientation call

About the Center for Family Engagement

National PTA's Center for Family Engagement was established to take a deliberate approach to reimagining family engagement practices and policies for greater equity and effectiveness, and to apply these transformative family engagement approaches at scale. As part of this work, National PTA's Center for Family Engagement – alongside a dedicated cadre of grassroots family and community leaders – facilitated this 2022 update to the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships.

¹We use the terms families, parents, and caregivers interchangeably in this document, recognizing that schools' and PTAs' efforts to engage families must reflect an inclusive approach to the full diversity of family structures that raise our children. This includes biological parents, kinship and adoptive families, as well as mentor-mentee relationships that act as guides, coaches, and advocates for children's educational experiences.