

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Wednesday, October 4 at 11:59 p.m. PDT

Submit applications online: <https://familyengagement.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/37/home>

National PTA's Center for Family Engagement, thanks to the generosity of GoGuardian, is excited to invite exceptional principals who have a commitment to family-school partnerships to apply for the **National PTA Principal Fellowship for Family-School Partnerships**.

### **Background Information**

Strong *family-school partnerships* help PTAs achieve our mission of making every child's potential a reality. We believe that fulfilling this mission requires us to also engage principals and school leaders. Thus, we have created a National PTA Principal Fellowship for Family-School Partnerships to help advance children's well-being across all levels of PTA. This Fellowship will use the National Standards for Family-School Partnership as a framework to help school leaders improve how their school community engages families.

In 1998, National PTA developed the [National Standards for Family-School Partnerships](#) to set the bar for how schools and families should work together to support student success. In 2022, the Center for Family Engagement updated the PTA National Standards to reflect more current research and best practices, elevate the voices of families, educators, and students, and better differentiate these Standards for PTA and school leader audiences.

### **About the Fellowship**

The **National PTA Principal Fellowship for Family-School Partnerships** is a cohort-based opportunity for school administrators to expand their knowledge and influence related to family-school partnerships. The selected Fellows will use the learning they gain in the fellowship to:

1. Make recommendations for developing new family engagement resources for school leaders to support implementation of the [updated National Standards for Family-School Partnership](#)
2. Identify a problem of practice with the goal of strengthening your leadership around family-school partnerships.

3. Develop and implement a leadership plan around your problem of practice, while documenting your progress throughout the fellowship.

This **12-month fellowship** will award up to **five** individuals with a \$1,500 stipend for their learning and contributions.

The fellowship is a good fit for those who want to:

- Learn about emerging trends and cutting-edge practices in family-school partnerships
- Help create more actionable, up-to-date and useable resources for school leaders and local PTAs around family-school partnerships
- Network with a small group of other fellows who are building and exercising their leadership to advance family-school partnerships
- Enhance the Center for Family Engagement's approach to engaging principals in family-school partnership work

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***Who is eligible to apply for the National PTA Principal Fellowship for Family-School Partnerships?***

All PK-12 principals or assistant principals that work at a public or public charter school during the school year 2023-24 with a PTA in good standing

### ***How many fellows will be chosen and how will they be selected?***

Up to five individuals will be awarded the *National PTA Principal Fellowship for Family-School Partnerships*

Fellows will be selected through a two-step process. Applicants who submit a written or video application by October 4 will be scored by PTA volunteer leader and staff reviewers. Of the initial applicants, approximately 12 semi-finalists will be chosen to participate in a virtual interview during a time slot on October 23-30. Among the semi-finalists, up to five will ultimately be chosen to participate in the Fellowship.

### ***What are the selection criteria for the National PTA Principal Fellowship for Family-School Partnerships?***

- **Passion for Family-School Partnerships.** Fellows bring a commitment to family-school partnerships through their experiences as a PTA. They believe in the importance of engaging families to help every child reach their full potential.
- **Commitment to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.** Fellows bring a commitment to centering equity in their work. They believe that every parent wants to and is able to support their child's learning and development.
- **Learning orientation.** Fellows are committed to their own personal growth. They are interested in the fellowship to further their learning and to contribute to the learning of their peers and the association. They seek understanding in furthering dialogue about family-school partnerships.
- **Communication skills.** Fellows are compelling communicators with diverse audiences. They can connect their experiences and passions to the goals and work of others through active listening. They express their ideas clearly and inspire others to take action.
- **Preference** will be given to individuals who bring often underrepresented perspectives (in gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, language, religion, etc.) to the cohort and those whose school has received a Schools of Excellence designation in the past 3 years.

### ***What is the time commitment for National PTA Principal Fellowship for Family-School Partnerships?***

Fellows will be required to attend one 90-minute cohort meeting or a 45-minute individual check-in each month. Meetings will be virtual and will be scheduled to accommodate participants' schedules.

Fellows should expect to do 2-4 hours of work per month outside of the cohort meetings

### ***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**

- August 29-September 27 – Scheduled office hours for application help & clarification

- October 4 at 11:59 p.m. PDT—All applications for the National PTA Principal Fellowship must be submitted.
- October 23-30—Semi-finalists invited to a ~30 min. virtual interview.
- Late-October —Fellows selected and notified.

### SAVE THE DATE

- Early November at 4:00 p.m. EDT—Fellows participate in a welcome and orientation webinar.

### *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.

<sup>i</sup>We 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.