

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Sunday, July 17, by 11:59 PST

Submit applications online: <https://familyengagement.secure-platform.com/>

National PTA's Center for Family Engagement is excited to invite state PTAs, district/council/regional PTAs and community-based PTAs (like Special Education PTAs) to apply for the **2022 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 developing strong and meaningful family-school partnerships.

Background Information

Families are the essential ingredient to ensure a high-quality education for every student. Decades of research shows that family engagement matters for student success – students whose families are engaged are more likely to attend school, avoid discipline problems, achieve at higher levels, and graduate (Henderson & Mapp, 2002; Jeynes, 2012; Hill & Tyson, 2009). Family engagement also helps schools – research suggests it is equally as important as school leadership or a rigorous curriculum to predict school improvement (Bryk, et al., 2010).

Although there is consensus that family engagement matters, parents¹ and educators both struggle to figure out how to engage with one another in ways that reach all families and have an impact on student success (Robinson & Harris, 2014; Bergman & Mapp, 2022). A key part of PTA's role is to both model best practices for strong family-school partnerships, and to advocate for schools to follow these best practices as they make funding decisions, provide training to their staff, and monitor federal and state requirements around family engagement.

PTA's [National Standards for Family-School Partnerships](#) ("the Standards") set the bar for how schools and parent organizations work together to support student success and are at the heart of PTA's extraordinary legacy and impact on the lives of children. The National Standards for Family-School Partnerships have guided state and local education agencies, schools, and PTAs on how to develop stronger family engagement practices since their initial development more than two decades ago.

In response to changes in educational trends, community demographics, and the family engagement evidence base, as well as the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, National PTA is currently updating the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships. This update seeks to reflect more current research and best practices, center the perspective of families in defining strong practices, and improve the usefulness of the Standards. In 2021-22, PTA heard from over 600 constituents to inform this update. Challenge grantees will get a sneak peak at these updated Standards and use them to develop family engagement practice and policy priorities in their own communities.

About the Grant

The Center for Family Engagement will support up to 10 PTAs to deepen their learning and leadership in the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships through this \$2,500 grant. Grant dollars are intended to fund activities that advance family-school partnerships in your community.

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 Standards can advance diversity, equity & inclusion goals
 - Explore the role of PTAs in creating community change using the standards
- Promote the adoption and implementation of the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships at the district or state 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
 - Mobilizing your community to learn about the Standards and engage in related opportunities
 - Connecting with other PTAs and community organizations to share how the National Standards can enhance family engagement practices
 - Identifying and sharing best practices in family-school partnerships in their own communities

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know if my PTA is eligible?

District, Council, Region PTAs, State PTAs, and community-based PTAs (like SEPTAs) in good standing are eligible to participate. If you are unsure if you are in good standing, contact your state PTA.

How will you be evaluating the applications?

Staff and volunteers will score PTAs based on the degree PTAs meet the following criteria:

- The PTA has relevant partnership-building or advocacy experience that has prepared them for this opportunity
- The PTA has a vision for how they would like to collaborate with community partners to advance family-school partnerships

- The upcoming school year is an opportune time for the PTA and its community to begin this work

Selection Timeline

- June 5 – applications open
- July 17 at 11:59 p.m. PST—all applications must be submitted
- August 26 —announcement of grantees

SAVE THE DATE

- September 8th time TBD – 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.

ⁱ 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 childrens’ educational experiences.