



everychild.one voice.®



SCHOOL OF
EXCELLENCE

National PTA® School of Excellence

The **National PTA School of Excellence** program recognizes, supports and celebrates partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students.

National PTA launched the [School of Excellence](#) program to help strengthen family-school partnerships across the country and make measurable progress in the areas of education, health and safety and arts in education. At a [School of Excellence](#), families feel welcomed and empowered to support student success, and PTA is the key partner for continuous school improvement. Schools achieving this recognition are at the forefront of engaging families through **National PTA's Standards for Family-School Partnerships**.

Program Results

The following are key outcomes that demonstrate the strength of family-school partnerships after completion of the National PTA School of Excellence program. To achieve these results, PTAs and schools focused on implementing strategies guided by the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships.

Welcoming All Families



Nearly **95% of families** feel they are treated fairly regardless of age, gender, race or cultural background.

Sharing Power



Approximately **81% of families** believe their school establishes policies that recognize and respect families' cultural, ethnic, religious and socioeconomic diversity.

Communicating Effectively



95% of families believe their school and PTA communicate with families in multiple ways.

Collaborating with the Community



93% of families feel the school is a central part of their community.

Supporting Student Success



79% of families feel they understand the academic standards their child is expected to meet and how the curriculum is linked to those standards.

Speaking Up for Every Child



83% of families feel PTA promotes opportunities to empower parents to advocate for the success of their own child and other children in their school.

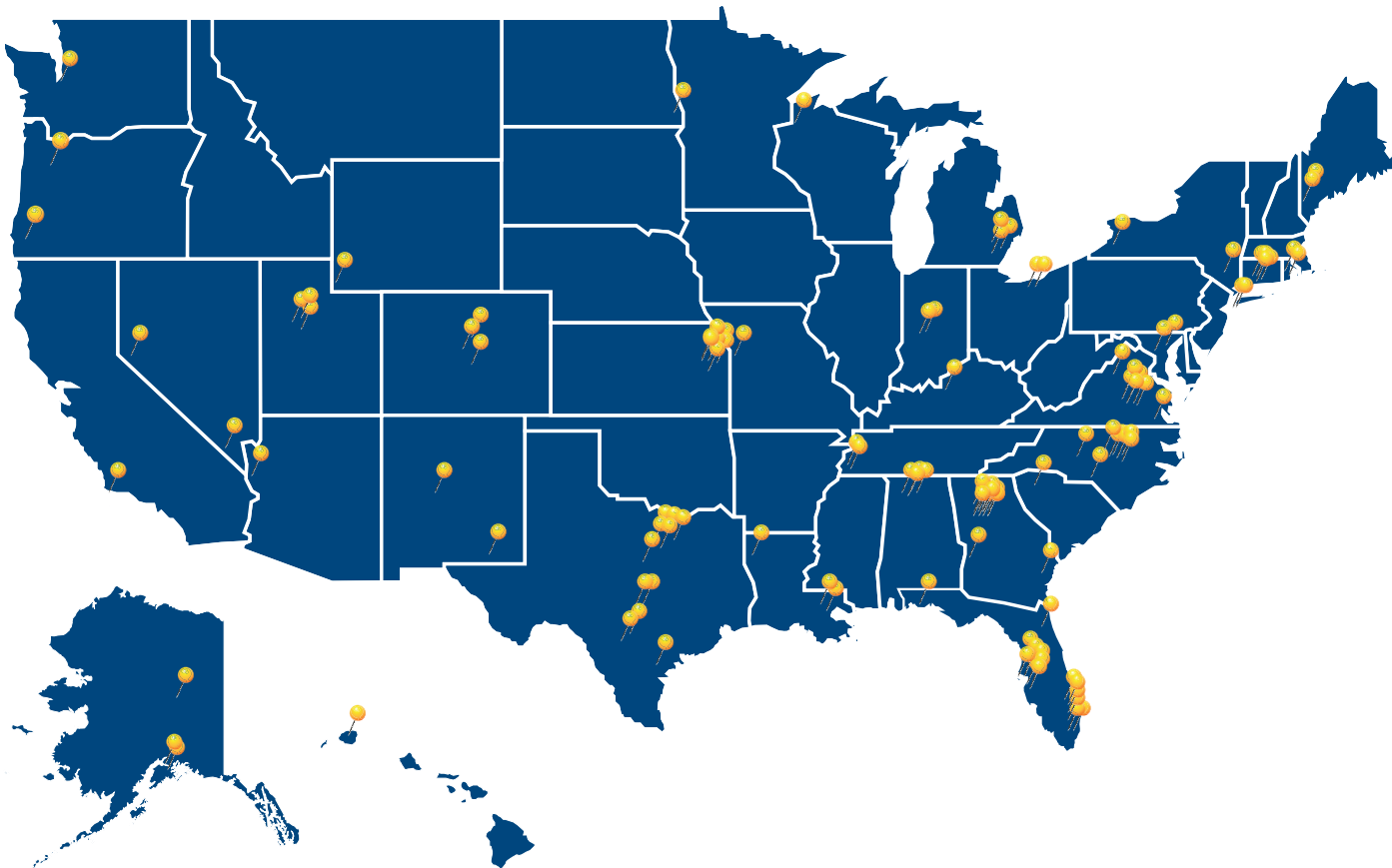
National Standards for Family-School Partnerships



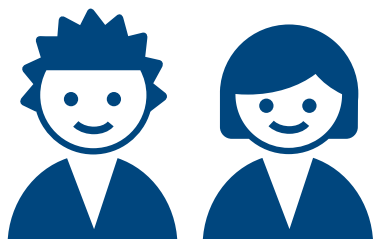
Announcing 2015-2017 National PTA School of Excellence Award Recipients

(124 Recipients in 33 States)

Not pictured: Incirlik Unit School PTSA in Turkey



About the 2015-2017 National PTA Schools of Excellence



Served
93,530
students



36%
are Title 1 Schools



Two-thirds have greater than
30% of student
population that qualify for
free/reduced lunch



Celebrating the 2015 Apperson Hearst Award Recipients

2015 Phoebe Apperson Outstanding Family-School Partnership Award Recipient – Key Biscayne Community School PTA, Key Biscayne, FL

Key Biscayne Community School (KBCS) PTA serves a K-8 culturally diverse and socio-economic school community, with more than 80% of households speaking Spanish as a first language at home. The PTA spent the school year focused on the shared goal of ensuring their students' health and safety by promoting healthy lifestyles at school and at home with a concentration on mind and body. Together with the school, they formed a cafeteria committee to engage families in understanding wellness. The committee hosted a "Healthy Eating Week" in partnership with a chef through an interactive cafeteria presentation. Families were educated on the importance of rainbow foods to include vegetables and fruits.

Throughout the year, the committee provided recipes and tips to families on incorporating fruits and vegetables into the students' diets. With over 60% of children whom walk, bike or skate to and from school daily, the PTA partnered with the Village of Key Biscayne and an urban planning company to develop and participate in Safe Routes to School. The PTA also collaborated with families and the local business community to make significant improvements to playgrounds through a focused fundraising effort with a specific goal of these school improvements.

The focus of healthy lifestyles did not stop here! In February, the PTA hosted a fun run for their elementary students and a color run for their middle schoolers. The PTA supported and promoted anti-bullying and internet safety presentations and informational workshops for families. Marketing for all events and presentations were shared in English and in Spanish.

The PTA devised a novel approach to welcoming and transitioning new families to the school, specifically for parents of young children and families relocating from other countries into their school. The new parent committee met with these parents and held orientations to welcome them to the school. The PTA also supported student success by working with the school around their improvement plan to purchase computers for the classrooms and cameras and equipment for the student-run morning news, KBCS Shark Attack. That's the power of strong family-school partnerships.

"The student population is international; in many cases attendance at KBCS is the first time a student has studied at a school in the United States, much less heard of or knows about PTA. Notwithstanding, parents and students quickly became supporters and the KBCS PTA has over 650 members."

– Kate Asturias, Key Biscayne PTA

Learn more at [PTA.org/Excellence](https://www.pta.org/excellence)

Celebrating the 2015 Apperson Hearst Award Recipients

2015 Phoebe Apperson Hearst Family-School Partnership Award of Merit – Elkins Pointe Middle School PTSA, Roswell, GA

Elkins Pointe Middle School PTA devoted their school year in partnership with their principal to improve family and community engagement and dispel the unfounded bad reputation of their school that had divided the school community for years. They quickly developed an action plan to bring parents and the school community together to support student success based on their recommendations of their Family-School Partnership Scan.

Families were greeted with words of welcome in the 27 languages spoken at their school, as well as with flags from an array of countries hung proudly on the walls. The PTA supported WEBB, a peer mentoring program with 8th grade students welcoming incoming 6th graders to their school.

The Star House program was also supported by the PTA to assist students with homework and help sessions before and after school that focused on specific state standards. The PTSA held several workshops for parents on how to support their child's learning around state standards at home.

Parents were encouraged to attend school board meetings where their voices were heard and Elkins Pointe exemplified sharing power in the rewrite of the school's 2014-2015 school compact that better serves the families of Elkins Pointe. This school worked diligently to pave their way on the road to excellence.

“By collaborating with the community, we established relationships and partnerships that were able to offer community service and learning opportunities for our students.”

– Tunieka Brown, Elkins Point Middle PTA, Roswell, GA



FAMILIES



SCHOOLS



Excellence

**National
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