**Final Application** SAMPLE ONLY

*This is a **SAMPLE** Final Application only.*

**Only applications submitted online at [PTA.org/ExcellenceTools](http://PTA.org/ExcellenceTools) by the due date will be considered for this cycle of award recipients.**

If you have any questions, please contact [Excellence@PTA.org](mailto:Excellence@PTA.org) or call (800) 307-4782.

1. **Select the largest number of survey responses collected for each category.**

   For example, if most of your responses to Question #1 were in the “Sometimes” category, you will choose “Sometimes” and move on to Question #2. We do not need actual numbers for this step in the process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unknown</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Sometimes</th>
<th>Frequently</th>
<th>Always</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Our school has friendly signs and messages in multiple languages.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Our school translates communications and provide interpreters as needed.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Our school encourages families to volunteer.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Our school shows respect to all families regardless of differences (e.g. age, gender, race, cultural background).</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Our school communicates with families in multiple ways (e.g., email, phone, website).</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Our school provides clear, two-way conversations about student progress or needs.</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Our school helps families understand how they can support their child’s learning.</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Our school involves parents in planning for student transitions (e.g. middle school, high school, post-secondary, careers).</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Our school uses technology to meet the needs of today’s students.</td>
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## 10. Our school includes students as active participants in discussions of expectations and work quality (e.g. parent teacher conferences).

## 11. Our school explains the academic standards and how the curriculum is connected to those standards.

## 12. Our school informs and encourages families to advocate for students at the school, local, state or national level.

## 13. Our school listens to families’ concerns and demonstrates a genuine interest in developing solutions.

## 14. Our school provides information on family rights and responsibilities under federal and state laws.

## 15. Our school establishes policies that recognize and respect diversity (e.g. cultural, ethnic, religious, socioeconomic).

## 16. Our school considers families to be equal partners in decision making (e.g. policy, curricula, budget, safety, personnel).

## 17. Our school provides families with information on our school improvement plan.

## 18. Our school distributes information on community resources that serve the needs of families within the community.

## 19. Our school has partnerships with local businesses, community organizations and service groups to advance student learning, or assist the school or families.

## 20. Our school is a central part of the community.

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2. **Enter the total number of Final Surveys collected from your school community.**

3. **Attach a breakdown of your Final Survey results. Send us the attachment at Excellence@PTA.org with the subject line “[Your School Name] – Final Survey Results”**.
4. **Write a narrative about your Journey to Excellence.**

In 1000 words or less, describe your *greatest* accomplishment in strengthening family-school partnerships at your school this year as a result of your participation in the School of Excellence program. Be sure to include:

a) One school improvement **goal** you identified through the process that was intentional and aligned with feedback from the field to improve school programs, policies and/or practices.

b) The accomplishments made using **measurable outcomes** produced as a result of the work (e.g. metrics, examples, quotes).

c) An explanation of how investments in family engagement translate to **continuous**, positive change to the school as a result of the work.

d) At least one **National Standard for Family-School Partnerships** that best aligns with the work and an explanation of how it was exemplified:
   a. Standard 1: Welcoming All Families
   b. Standard 2: Communicating Effectively
   c. Standard 3: Supporting Student Success
   d. Standard 4: Speaking Up for Every Child
   e. Standard 5: Sharing Power
   f. Standard 6: Collaborating with Community

e) At least one of the **Four ‘I’s for Transformative Family Engagement** that best aligns with the work and an explanation of how it was exemplified:
   a. Inclusive
   b. Individualized
   c. Integrated
   d. Impactful

5. **Pick a new focus area for family engagement that you plan to concentrate on in the following school year: education, health & safety or arts. Within that broad focus area, choose one specific objective that best describes how you will support efforts.**

Choose one focus area and one corresponding objective from the list below.

**Focus Area: Improve Education**

**Objectives:**

- To support implementation of college-and career-ready standards and assessment (Common Core State Standards)
- To increase family engagement supporting student success (literacy, math, science)
To increase involvement from dads and other male role models
+ To grow volunteer opportunities and volunteer participation among families
+ To prevent school dropouts
+ To grow family participation in advocacy

Focus Area: Ensure Health & Safety of Students
Objectives:
+ To promote healthy lifestyles at home and at school
+ To customize and implement the local school wellness policies
+ To address the problem of hunger among families in the school community
+ To prevent injury at home and at school
+ To promote Internet safety
+ To prevent all forms of bullying and encourage healthy peer relationships
+ To support students’ emotional and mental well-being
+ To advocate for safer routes to school (bicycling, walking, parking, busing)
+ To ensure emergency preparedness, school and personal safety
+ To prevent student substance abuse
+ To promote teen driver safety
+ To improve the environment for students with allergies, asthma, epilepsy, diabetes or other chronic conditions

Focus Area: Support the Arts
Objectives:
+ To increase access to arts programs
+ To increase available resources for student learning in the arts (supplies, teacher resources)
+ To build successful community partnerships
+ To advocate for the value of arts in education

The following questions are optional and will not impact the score of your application.

6. Did you see an impact on PTA membership? If so, share key results.

7. Provide a comment/quote from your school administrator about the value or impact of this program for the school.

8. If your PTA is a past National PTA School of Excellence Award Recipient, please select your award designation years. Not sure? View previous Schools of Excellence.
   - 2014-2016
   - 2015-2017
9. We love to see how all of your hard work has paid off. Please send pictures, videos, articles or social media posts to Excellence@PTA.org with the subject line “[Your PTA Name and State] – Media”. Please note, by submitting photos and videos you agree that National PTA may use them for any lawful purpose, including for example such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising and Web content.

10. Please take a few minutes to complete the School of Excellence Program Survey to share information about your experience. Thank you for your feedback.