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FAMILIES

READY, SET, LEAD!



SCHOOLS

PTA® National Standards For Family-School Partnerships

ACTION STEPS FOR
THE LOCAL PTA® LEADER

READY, SET, LEAD! ACTION STEPS FOR THE LOCAL PTA LEADER

Families are active participants in the life of the school and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.

ACTION STEPS:

- Establish a PTA welcoming committee responsible for identifying ways to make all families feel welcome.
- Recruit bilingual parents to greet and interpret for families whose first language isn't English.
- Offer family activities at low or no cost so everyone can participate; budget PTA funds for this purpose.
- Host meetings in a variety of community locations (e.g., the local library, a community center) to make them accessible to all.
- Greet other parents at school activities and events. Sit with someone you don't know and get to know them.



Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

ACTION STEPS:

- Survey teachers to find out how PTA can better help parents to support their child's academic success.
- Work with school leadership to conduct workshops for parents and students on study skills, individual curriculum areas, standardized tests, and college and career planning.
- Distribute tips for effective parent-teacher conferences or conversations.
- Plan your PTA calendar in a way that links back to student and family learning.



Families, PTA and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.

ACTION STEPS:

- Make use of all channels of communication: social media, newspapers, radio, automated phone systems, text messaging, school and PTA websites, etc.
- Make sure all information is communicated in languages and formats to reach all parents.
- Host events that allow educators and parents to interact socially.
- Seek feedback and use their insights.
- Ask teachers to share tips for parents to support learning on the PTA Facebook page or newsletter.



Families are empowered to be advocates for their own -- and other children -- to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

ACTION STEPS:

- Get a copy of your school's family engagement policy and make sure it covers the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Work with school leadership to update the policy to meet the needs of your community.
- Ask families to weigh in on key school improvement decisions throughout the year. Use social media, surveys, text, or email tools to collect feedback and share how that feedback was incorporated.
- Host a forum for candidates running for public office. Focus questions on issues that affect children, families and education.



READY, SET, LEAD! ACTION STEPS FOR THE LOCAL PTA LEADER

- Involve families and host trainings on topics such as supporting student learning; nurturing social and emotional development; ensuring safety; or advocating for the needs of your child -- or all children.
- Educate families about their students' rights and responsibilities at schools. Share ways to navigate challenges and voice concerns.
- Get to know your elected officials at all levels of government.

Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence and create policies, practices and programs.

ACTION STEPS:

- Lead with an intentional commitment to being inclusive of all families' perspectives and unique needs.
- Listen to differing opinions; seek a solution that delivers the best outcome for your students and school.
- Inform families about the school improvement plan and ask for their feedback prior to key decisions.
- Develop a PTA plan that supports your school or school district's family engagement initiatives.



Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families and staff to expand learning opportunities, community services and civic participation.

ACTION STEPS:

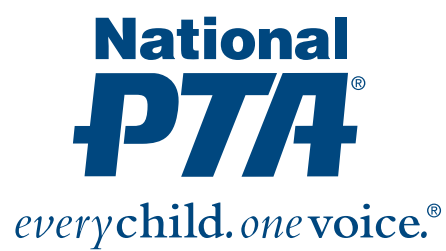
- Reach out to a broad base of partners in and around the school to help achieve your desired results.
- Celebrate the people and improvements at your school often. Share how PTA played a role in strengthening your school community as a whole.
- Host a community resource fair highlighting programs that support the cultural, recreational, academic, health, social, and other needs of families.
- Invite senior/retired citizens to volunteer at the school.
- Create a school alumni program to encourage alumni to volunteer time or make a donation to the school.
- Work with the local newspaper to promote events at the school.



Gain turn-key tools and a roadmap to achieving PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships through the National PTA School of Excellence Program.

Visit [PTA.org/Excellence](https://www.pta.org/Excellence) to learn more.

Excerpted and adapted from PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships: An Implementation Guide. For the complete assessment and implementation guide, please visit [PTA.org/FamilyEngagement](https://www.pta.org/FamilyEngagement).



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