

PTA Family-School Partnerships

Excerpted and adapted from
*PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships:
An Implementation Guide*

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Ready, Set, Lead!

PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

Action Steps for the Local PTA Leader



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PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships: Action Steps for the Local PTA Leader

Standard 1—Welcoming All Families into the School Community

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.

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Hold meetings in a variety of community locations (e.g., the local library, a community center, a church) 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.



Standard 2—Communicating Effectively

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

- ❖ Make use of all channels of communication: cable television, 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.
- ❖ Sponsor events that allow educators and parents to interact socially.
- ❖ Distribute calendars for parents to record upcoming events, assignments, and dates to check with teachers on their children's progress.
- ❖ Role-play a parent-teacher conference for families and school staff, demonstrating effective ways for parents and teachers to share information and plan for the future.



Standard 3—Supporting Student Success

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.

- ❖ Determine what parents need to know and need to be able to do to support their children's academic success. Also determine how family and community engagement can support school goals.
- ❖ Work with school leadership to conduct workshops for parents and students on study skills, individual curriculum areas, standardized tests, and college and career planning.
- ❖ Create a checklist and tip sheets for effective parent-teacher conferences.
- ❖ Provide parent involvement suggestions through signs at the school and articles in the local newspaper.
- ❖ Link all events to student learning.

Standard 4—Speaking Up for Every Child

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.

- ❖ Get a copy of your school's parent involvement policy and make sure it covers the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. Work with school leadership to update the policy to meet the needs of your community.
- ❖ Include a one-question poll in each PTA/school newsletter and post it on the Web. Over the course of the year, cover a wide range of issues affecting students and the school. Use the parent feedback in making school and program decisions.
- ❖ Involve parents in ongoing training on topics such as being an effective advocate, identifying and supporting learning styles, resolving difficulties, and fostering student achievement.
- ❖ Reach out to underrepresented populations to ensure access and equity for all students.
- ❖ Match new families at the school with a buddy family to show them the ropes.

Standard 5—Sharing Power

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

- ❖ Make sure the PTA membership and leadership is reflective of the school community.
- ❖ Work with the principal to identify ways the school can include and consult parents in decisions and ways the PTA can support the school improvement plan.
- ❖ Work with students, parents, teachers, school and community leaders, and businesses to develop a parent/family involvement policy that establishes the foundation for involvement programs in your community.
- ❖ Host a forum for candidates running for public office; focus questions on issues that affect children, families, and education.
- ❖ Get to know your elected officials at all levels of government.

Standard 6—Collaborating with Community

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

- ❖ Reach out to a broad base of partners in and around the school to help achieve your desired results. Develop a shared vision of success among your partners and an understanding of the contributions each organization can bring.
- ❖ 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.