

Parent Involvement: What PTA Can Do



Parents As Partners

- Help parents understand their responsibilities and rights.
- Provide information that emphasizes the benefit of sending the child to school each day, on time, and ready to learn— well rested, well nourished, and prepared for the day's lessons.
- Provide information on school policies and how they are implemented; the curriculum and how it is taught; the use of tests in student placement, etc.
- Help parents learn about alcohol and other drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, and sex education classes so they can talk more easily with their children.

Parents As Problem Solvers

- Educate parents about school rules and procedures.
- Emphasize the value of communicating with their child's teachers.
- Stress the importance of attending parent-teacher conferences.
- Teach parents how to help with homework.

Parents As Audience

- Help plan and publicize school events.
- Sponsor special programs and activities for family education and enrichment.
- Work with the school to meet transportation and childcare needs.
- Rotate PTA meetings between daytime and evening hours and weekdays and weekends.

Parents As Supporters

- Organize a parent/community volunteer program based on classroom and school needs.
- Cooperate with school and community agencies to reduce teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and alcohol, drugs, and sexually related problems.
- Provide information and support for families during their students' special education placement processes.
- Plan long-term parent education and parent involvement programs.

Parents As Advisors and Decision Makers

- Promote school-sponsored programs to address problems that arise at that school.
- Involve parents in understanding school curriculum and how it is taught to all children.
- Ensure parental participation on school councils, and provide a forum for dialogue with the community to ensure representation.

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