



## Working with School Foundations and Booster Clubs

In addition to PTA, school campuses are often home to such student support organizations as education foundations, English Language Advisory Councils (ELAC), Head Start, Associated Student Body (ASB) and booster clubs – each seeking parents' time, money and support.

Keep in mind that the purpose of these other groups is generally to support a specific school community and/or to generate funds.

The purposes of PTA, the largest volunteer advocacy organization for ALL children and youth, are unique:

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community and place of worship.
- To raise the standards of home life.
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in education of children and youth.
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

Practices that foster communication, understanding and collaboration often result in success for all involved. Here are some suggestions that your PTA may consider when working with other organizations on campus.

- **Organize a bi-annual meeting of presidents.** Schedule a time when presidents or leaders of each organization on campus can meet, share their purposes, issues and programs. Include the principal.
- **Develop a non-voting advisory liaison position on the PTA board.** This requires an amendment to the bylaws. The purpose of the liaison (from another group) is to attend PTA meetings as a way to foster understanding, share information and avoid duplication of services. Grant courtesy seats to those liaisons who are not PTA members. Suggest to other campus organizations that they provide a liaison position for PTA on their boards.
- **Work with other groups on specific projects.** PTA can benefit by collaborating with other campus organizations by providing and hosting events\*.
  - Inter-group cooperation will provide a greater pool of volunteers and attract a larger and more diverse school community population. This is an excellent way to showcase your PTA to those who might not ordinarily attend PTA functions.
  - PTA must ensure that the goals and objectives of any organization with which it collaborates are consistent with those of PTA and that its fiscal affairs are consistent with sound business practices. Additionally, all PTA monies and other assets are the property of the unit and shall be administered through its own accounts without co-mingling of funds.
- **Limit PTA fund-raising.** Fundraising is the method of raising money to finance PTA programs and projects\*. When planning the year's activities, PTAs should use the 3-to-1 rule: for every one fund-raising activity, there should be at least three non-fund-raising programs aimed at supporting parents or students or advocating for school improvements.

\*All PTA programs and fundraisers must have prior approval of the membership.

*For more information on PTA and Education Foundations, see California State PTA Toolkit, Section 5.8.4*