

## Engaging high school students and parents in PTA

### **Making PTA/PTSA membership appealing to high school students and their families**

As students move into high school, schedules may become more hectic and demanding. Maintaining family involvement in high school then becomes more difficult. Students and parents often ask, “What's in it for me?” “Why should I attend this event?” They want to be assured their time is not wasted.

Some proven ideas for unit leaders to use to increase involvement in the high school setting include the following:

- Make phone calls to invite students and their families to PTA events. This may seem daunting if your high school is large, but it works better than simply listing dates in a newsletter. **Never underestimate the power of a personal invitation!**
- **Have a theme for each PTA event.** For example, have a college-preparation meeting to which you bring in college recruiters, financial advisors and planners.
- Collaborate with your local chamber of commerce to **host a job fair.**
- Have a **presentation on adolescent development.**
- Offer a workshop to students on how to **understand the parents of a teenager.**
- **Hold presentations on bullying and internet safety,** which are relevant topics for all families.
- **Host a curriculum night.** Help students and their parents understand what courses are needed for graduation and which courses give students college credit.
- **Ask families what they need from PTA and provide it!**

By making PTA events more appealing to students and their parents, attendance will increase and your PTA will be successful in equipping families with tools to improve student success in high school and beyond ... As a result, high school students and their families will see that PTA membership is also relevant and important for them.