

Diversity and Inclusion Committee

PTA diversity means... all children. All voices.

A diverse PTA enriches every child, every classroom, individual members and the school community.



When standing together as a whole is more powerful than standing alone:

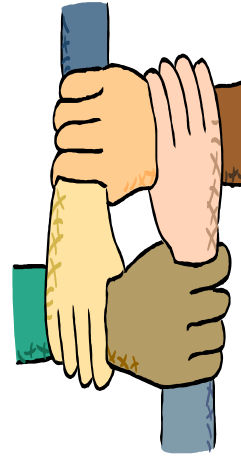
- When a child's life starts in the darkness of night, crying in a dumpster, trying to survive...because of a mother's struggles in her life.
- When a child waits for the war to end so that his parent, his hero, can return to tuck him in and read to him again.
- When a father who is behind bars or working all day can turn to his children and know that his is the voice that his child needs.
- When a child is moved from zone to zone, from homeless shelter or foster home, it is hard to call someone an old friend.
- When picking in fields and migrating is real. When do the children have time to plant roots to grow as the crops that they in buckets fill?
- When a child walks without feet and sees without sight and hears without sounds. How can you tell what he feels?
- When Autism or AIDS, Cancer or ADD, are of greater concern than SATs and lower grades.

Regardless of our differences?

The purposes of PTA have an important principle in common: **to promote diversity.** PTA promotes parent and community diversity to improve understanding of our differences and cultures, and discover our similarities. Research has proven that students do better when parents are involved and have respect for the neighbors around them. No matter the family income or background, students whose parents are involved are more likely to:

- Earn higher grades and test scores;
- Enroll in higher-level programs;
- Be promoted to the next grade level;
- Attend school regularly;
- Have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school; and
- Graduate and move on to postsecondary education.

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How is this accomplished?

PTAs and PTA-supported programs:

Inform parents about what their children are learning;
Promote high standards for student work;
Give parents tools to assist their children at home and guide them through school;
Promote discussion about improving student progress; and
Help families recognize good teaching.

What's in it for children?

PTAs promote the building of a broad base of parent and community involvement. In both urban and rural areas, when parents and community members work as equal partners to improve schools, it is shown that positive results include:

- Upgraded school facilities;
- Improved school leadership and staffing;
- Resources to improve teaching and the curriculum;
- Funding for after-school programs and family support systems; and
- Higher-quality learning programs.

PTAs are effective in improving achievement when they are welcoming to all members of the community, honoring all members' strengths and contributions, regardless of their differences, and promoting unity in what their children are learning and doing in school.

To sustain powerful family involvement, parents and school staff should work together to:

- Focus on building personal relationships;
- Recognize and remove barriers to involvement, such as having multicultural and diversity events throughout the year
- Build partnerships, be more inclusive, and share the power of community by encouraging that the voices of parents are heard and respected.

For more information on the benefits of a diverse PTA membership, visit:

Diversity and Inclusion
California State PTA website:
www.capta.org
or email info@capta.org