



PTA's Professional Governance Standards

Public oversight of local government is the foundation of American democracy. Nowhere is this more evident than in our public school system. As PTA members it is our mission to ensure that a high quality of education is provided to each and every student. As leaders we recognize there are certain fundamental principals — professional governance standards — to help govern responsibility to do this effectively.

The bylaws and standing rules of the PTA provide the fundamental framework for executive boards and individual board members, and each will benefit from adherence to a set of professional standards of governance. The California State PTA has developed a set of professional governance standards to enhance understanding for PTA members and the community about the responsibility of a PTA Board. All PTAs are encouraged to adopt the following professional governance standards.

The Individual Board Member

- Recognizes and respects differences of perspective and style among the individual board members
- Acts with dignity and understands the implications of demeanor and behavior
- Honors the confidentiality of board discussions
- Is open to new ideas and suggestions
- Is familiar with the bylaws in respect to the individual position as well as the organization as a whole
- Understands that authority rests with the board as a whole and not with individuals
- Understands that the basis for all authority rests with the membership
- Participates in opportunities for training
- Commits the time and energy necessary to be an informed and effective leader
- Assists those with less experience
- Understands the distinctions between PTA and the school staff and refrains from performing functions that are the responsibility of the school district
- Values, supports and advocates for public education
- Represents the PTA only when authorized to do so

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The PTA Executive Board

- Develops a unity of purpose by involving parents/guardians, students, staff and community
- Communicates a common vision
- Operates with trust and integrity
- Remains responsive to input from school community
- Governs in a professional manner, treating everyone with civility and respect
- Fulfills requirements set within bylaws and standing rules
- Takes collective responsibility for the board's performance
- Proposes for adoption by the membership a fiscally responsible budget based on the organization's vision and goals
- Monitors the fiscal health of the association regularly
- Ensures that safe and appropriate activities are provided to implement the goals
- Provides community leadership on issues that affect children and youth
- Works collaboratively with other groups and agencies that share the same concerns on issues that affect children and youth
- Encourages individual board members to attend available training opportunities
- Serves as a communication link between the home, school and community
- Evaluates the activities and direction of the board on a regular basis

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Leadership Commission