

## Put the “S” in your PTSA

PTSA encourages middle and high school students to become involved in their schools and provide their invaluable input from a student’s viewpoint. Each student needs someone who cares about his or her well being, safety, educational opportunities and learning environment. Students are encouraged to fully participate in the aspects of their PTSA, which may include: election of officers, fundraising, programming, scholarships, tutoring, legislation and state convention.

## What is PTSA?

The **PTSA**, Parent-Teacher-Student Association, is a private, non-profit organization of parents, teachers, **Students** and community members who strive to better the lives of children. We are part of an association that is organized at the local, state and national levels. By joining your local PTSA, you are automatically a member of the state and national associations. The PTA/**PTSA** is the largest child advocacy volunteer organization. It speaks for the interest of all children and their safety, health, welfare and education.

## What can **Students** do for PTSA?

Students can utilize their wide variety of talents by

- organizing & participating in PTSA sponsored events
- organizing student volunteers for PTSA activities
- providing input in developing PTSA programming
- developing creative ways to increase student awareness and involvement in PTSA.

Special training for students is available at the Indiana State Convention in the form of workshops and networking opportunities.

The **PTSA** supports school gifted and talented programming, which meets the individual needs of all students. **PTSA** supports and encourages the academic, creative and artistic achievement, and communication of Indiana students.

## Opportunity for **Students** involved in **PTSA**.

- **Academic**—Some Indiana **PTSA**’s give out Scholarships to High School seniors.
- **Citizenship**—PTA/**PTSA** units and councils throughout Indiana include the promotion of patriotism and good citizenship in their goals and plans. To promote good citizenship, the Indiana PTA sponsors the Citizenship Essay Contest for students in grades 4-12 with recognition at the local and state level.
- **Leadership**—All students have the potential to be strong leaders. Through involvement with PTA you have the opportunity to develop those skills.
- **Legislation**—The Indiana PTA hosts an annual Legislative Conference. Students are invited and have the opportunity to sharpen the skills necessary to advocate for children of the State of Indiana and learn the “how-tos” of contacting and meeting state legislators. The Legislative Conference is open to all members to increase awareness of legislative issues affecting the health and education of children; to disseminate information; to gain support from members and the public on legislative issues.
- **Reflections**—The Reflections program is an arts in education program designed to allow students to showcase their talents in the areas of visual arts, literature, photography, dance choreography, video film production and musical composition. This is an annual program based around a specific theme with recognition at the local, state and national level.

## How can parents encourage student participation in PTSA?

Parents can encourage student participation by:

- joining the PTSA and encouraging your child to do the same
- attending meetings together
- individually inviting students to join at registration time
- listening and utilizing input given by students
- giving special incentives for students joining

Connect with PTSA. Share your vision.

### A final word

Children who learn are children who succeed. And our world's future depends on the success of every child. This is our vision, this is our mission. Success in this effort comes from making the right connections.

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