

- Encouraging parents and community members to unite to improve the lives of children and youth through programs that address social problems.
2. The PTA fosters community support of education.
- It does so in the follow ways:
- Working to maintain a strong public school system with quality education for all children.
 - Supporting training for teachers, principals, parents, administrators and community members in their roles as shared decision makers at local schools.
 - Making opportunities for parents to focus on school and student successes in exhibits, open houses, awards ceremonies, performances and other events.
 - Helping schools connect with the home, providing family and community information, and networking with other local organizations.

Because PTA volunteers are part of a national network (unlike other parent organizations), they have extensive resources to use when advocating for education in your community.

A real partnership

In the PTA, parents and teachers have always been partners, working together to improve education. Now more than ever that partnership needs to be supported and strengthened in order to meet the needs of today's children.

Indiana PTA
 2525 North Shadeland Avenue, D-4
 Indianapolis, IN 46219
 Phone: 317-357-5881
 Fax: 317-357-3751
 E-mail: indianapta@sbcglobal.net
 Web: www.indianapta.org

P
A
R
T
N
E
R
S

Teachers
and
the
PTA

T—for teacher—is the PTA’s middle name. Teachers are the crucial link in partnership between school and parents. Every major study of education has shown the importance of parent involvement. Parent involvement is enhanced by a positive parent-teacher relationship, and the PTA is an effective means of bringing parents and teachers together

Through PTAs and PTSAs (Parent-Teacher-Student Associations), parents and teachers work together to:

- Promote the education, health and well-being of children in the home, school and community;
- Offer programs and workshops to improve parenting skills and enrich the quality of home life;
- Secure passage of adequate laws for the protection of children and youth;
- Strengthen home-school cooperation and communication; and
- Improve the schools that children attend.

Teachers’ knowledge and leadership help the PTA serve children well. In turn, teachers look to the PTA for help and support in their important work of educating children.

Building a partnership: The teacher’s role

Parent involvement becomes a reality when there is strong support from the principal for teachers to build effective partnerships with parents to strengthen their participation in the school community. Some proven ways teachers encourage parent involvement include:

- Setting a friendly tone with parents in notes, phone calls and newsletters. This encourages parents to see themselves as equal partners in the job of educating their children.
- Establishing a regular means of communicating with parents throughout the school year—weekly classroom newsletters, teacher-parent journals, good news phone calls or Friday folders.

- Setting a clear policy on homework—its purpose, how much time it should take, how parents can help.
- Making sure parents understand classroom programs and policies, and the importance of parent support.
- Supporting parent and community volunteers in the school.
- Attending PTA meetings, serving on committees and in leadership positions, and joining in PTA programs and projects.
- Discussing PTA programs at teachers’ meetings, and gathering tips about successful programs at other schools to share with the PTA.
- Alerting the PTA to parents’ needs. Working with the PTA to provide parent involvement opportunities in school and at home.
- Sharing with the PTA issues of concern to teachers, current topics in education and the need for changes to meet future goals.

Building a partnership: The PTA’s role

Educating children is a shared responsibility. Teachers need the understanding and support of their partners in education: parents and community members. The PTA builds this partnership in two main ways:

1. The PTA encourages parents to be involved in their children’s education.

It does so in the following ways:
 - Making parents aware of school policies and programs.
 - Helping parents understand the importance of their support of school rules and procedures.
 - Strengthening parent-teacher communication and understanding through newsletters, workshops, events and activities.
 - Providing informal occasions for teachers and parents to get to know one another as individuals and as partners in education.
 - Conducting volunteer programs in schools.