

## WHAT IS PTA?

PTA is a grassroots organization made up of parents, teachers and others around the state who have a special interest in children, families and schools. PTA membership is as diverse as Texas is in cultures, education levels, and parenting skills. By joining a PTA, a member automatically becomes part of the largest child-advocacy organization in the state—over 770,000 strong across Texas.

## WHAT DOES PTA DO?

PTAs work for children. PTAs meet together, study problems, support teachers, volunteer in schools, attend workshops on parenting and become informed on issues regarding children and youth. As a result, PTA members become better parents, teachers and citizens.

## HOW IS PTA STRUCTURED?

Most local unit PTAs meet at a school campus. Groups of local unit PTAs often join together to form councils. Above councils, there are 18 district presidents and a Texas PTA Board of Directors, made of up volunteers. The board sets policies for PTAs throughout Texas. A professional office staff in Austin supports the work of the association.

## WHEN WAS PTA FORMED?

Feb. 17, 1897 in Washington, D.C. Two thousand women and a few men met to discuss the nation's future and the need for all caring adults to mobilize and to act on behalf of children. Thus, the National PTA was formed, soon followed by the Texas PTA in 1909.

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### WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED?

Because of your children and because of your community. Studies have proven that membership in PTA provides your child and other children around you with a greater chance of achieving in school. As a PTA member, you are more likely to be an informed, involved parent. These are dangerous times for children. More than ever, it is important for parents to learn ways to keep children safe, trouble free and involved in school. PTA is the best place to gain that knowledge.

### HOW CAN I BENEFIT?

PTA provides opportunities to meet and to talk with other parents who have the same worries as you. By sharing common concerns, you will feel more empowered to do the tough job of parenting. Being part of PTA results in parental support and makes school involvement easier. You will no longer feel “all alone” in raising your child. PTA also provides educational opportunities. From local-level parent education meetings to the Texas PTA Annual Convention, PTA encourages learning and the sharing of accomplishments. Ultimately, PTA provides the opportunity to serve, to volunteer and to contribute to the welfare of all children, because children represent our future. PTA will introduce you to a great variety of new activities and opportunities to share your special talents. PTA will give you opportunity, not only to impact your local community, but to have input in major legislative and policy issues affecting children throughout the state.

### HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Contact your local PTA president or the Texas PTA Office at 1-800-TALK-PTA or 512/476-6769. Inquire about PTA’s resources that will meet you and your PTA’s needs as advocates for all children. Resources include a free video lending library, publications, active legislative action, membership recruitment materials, leadership training opportunities, speakers, program ideas, etc. PTA offers these resources to you. Call us today or visit our website at [www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org).

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