



## PTA AND PRINCIPALS

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Teamwork has become the model for success in business and industry. It is also the key to success in education. Teamwork begins at the local school with a partnership between the principal - the individual responsible for all operations of the school/building and parents - a valuable resource for the school, leading to success for all students. Principals and PTA leaders need to understand and respect each other's roles and responsibilities and work cooperatively to set and achieve common goals. PTA can help parents, teachers, and administrators work together for student success through training and resources to educate and inform parents on key issues. Principals should not see PTA as an extra checkbook for the school, but a partner in enriching the education and experiences of the children in that school. A successful partnership between a principal and PTA can help create a welcoming environment for all parents as well as a communication channel for sharing concerns in a productive manner.

### PRINCIPAL:

- Be available to parents and the community. Schedule meetings open to the public at different times throughout the day and week. Invite parents to set up private appointments to discuss concerns.
- Make parent involvement a school priority. Major studies indicate that parent involvement is a key part of student success.
- Make parents feel welcome and comfortable in school.
- Educate parents and teachers how to use conferences to build parent-teacher-student teamwork. Make sure conferences are held at convenient times for all parents.
- Be sensitive to any trauma affecting the family as this impacts student performance.
- Be active in the PTA and also encourage the teachers and staff to participate.
- Help the PTA keep its primary focus on education rather than fundraising. The principal and the PTA can work together to solve problems and set goals that will benefit students.
- Help parents stay informed on current issues in education.
- Recognize PTA volunteers' efforts. Appreciate the contributions of parents.

### PARENTS:

- Encourage the principal to speak openly about his or her goals, concerns and School Improvement Plan (SIP).
- Present PTA and parent concerns and issues to the principal. Develop a forum that allows for frank and open discussion.
- Focus on education and the best ways to work together for the benefit of students. Consider programs that would support your School Improvement Plan (SIP).
- Be alert to staff and community talents and resources. Draw on these resources for the benefit of the entire school.
- Work with the principal to understand annual school reports and budgets. PTAs can support or oppose issues of concern before the school board and local, state or federal government.
- Keep things seen or heard at school confidential. Encourage every volunteer to honor the ethical considerations and legal responsibilities regarding the privacy of students and their records.