

Why be a PTA?



1. You are not alone!

There is always someone you can contact with questions. Someone will have the answer or know how to get one. Trained volunteers are available to assist with programs, problem solving, resources, etc.

You are a part of the National PTA.

When you are a PTA, you will have meetings with other PTAs in your area. You will have a chance to talk to other people about similar concerns. There will also be state conferences, including our annual convention.

2. Free training!

Illinois PTA offers many courses and workshops to help you operate your PTA. These include an PTA Road to Success, President's Course, ABCs of PTA Finance, and PTA and the Law. If we offer a meal, we do usually have a fee to cover the cost of the meal. At our annual convention, there are many workshops on current children's issues.

3. You have a loud voice!

An individual PTA member may take his concern to the local PTA; the local PTA can take it to the state; and then the state to the National PTA. *NETWORKING IN ACTION!*

PTA has representation on various state advisory boards and councils, such as the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Curriculum Council, and the Illinois Department of Public Health. The Illinois PTA also partners with other organizations that work for children such as: Council Against Handgun Violence, Fatherhood Initiative, Fire Safety Alliance, Healthy Schools Campaign, Principals Association, State Board of Education, Voices for Illinois Children, Family Partner Network, and the Illinois Arts Advisory.

The more people you have, the more likely that your local School Board or legislator will hear you. Legislative committees at state and national levels are working to promote laws that benefit children.

4. Get the latest news on legislation and children issues!

The following publications are free to PTAs: National PTA Handbook; *Our Children*; and the *Illinois PTA Bulletin*. Free state and national mailings dealing with PTA, education, legislation, and updates are sent. "How Tos" on leadership, conducting meetings, record keeping, presenting programs, etc. (Some publications are available in Spanish at no or low cost.) Videos dealing with school and children's issues are available on loan from the state PTA office. You can receive automatic emails and information on our web sites (www.illinoispta.org & www.pta.org).

5. PTA is a democratic organization.

Local unit PTAs are governed by the membership, which follows PTA bylaws, thereby recognizing the importance of elected officers and public meetings. It is not just a few people making the decisions. We follow the direction communicated by our membership.

6. Financial Benefits!

- Units are immediately covered by Illinois PTA group non-profit, tax deductible, and tax exemption status, under the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Rules and Regulations, 501(c) (3) determination.
- Illinois PTA Sales Tax Exemption, granted by the State of Illinois Department of Revenue, covers units.
- Low cost insurance is available to PTA units — Group and Special Event Liability, Bonding, and Theft.
- Illinois PTA Scholarships are awarded yearly, to two high school students in each of the five PTA Field Service Areas in Illinois. Over \$1,000,000 has been awarded to students since the inception of this program. Illinois PTA also provides limited grants to Illinois colleges and universities.