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What PTA Does

PTA is a non-profit, non-partisan national organization. It works on behalf of its members to help unite parents, teachers, and the community for the common good of ALL children. It provides state and national information, influence, and recognition to help members advocate for the health, education, and safety of all children and youth. Working together, members are able to create a healthy, nurturing environment to help improve the lives of all children and youth.

PTA membership provides:

Partnerships

- Local PTAs provide parents, teachers, and community members the opportunity to work together to improve the lives of children and youth through programs that address health, education, and social concerns.
- Local, state, and National PTAs cooperate with other child and youth-oriented organizations to combine resources in addressing child-related issues.

Leadership Development

- PTA is committed to developing leaders who can carry out the *Missions and Purposes* of the PTA.
- PTA prepares members to advocate for children before government entities, organize and conduct programs, work with the media, and encourage parent and community involvement by providing training and information through workshops, videos, and written materials.
- The Iowa PTA provides leadership training workshops at the Fall Leadership Retreat, at the spring convention, and for Council PTAs.

Legislative Influence

- Members have clout and a powerful voice in government because of PTA's large membership of more than 6 million nationwide.
- National PTA's Washington, DC, office provides information regarding federal issues and advocacy training to all PTAs.
- Members can get information about the PTA perspective on current federal legislation by calling National PTA's toll-free legislative hotline (888) 4-ALL-KDS (425-5537).
- Members can get the latest information on legislative activity by subscribing to the weekly e-newsletter *This Week in Washington*.
- National PTA's website, www.pta.org, contains legislative news and alerts as well as background information on key issues.
- The Iowa PTA provides information concerning state legislative issues to its members through letters to unit presidents and a legislative email network.

State and National Resources

- PTAs across the country have access to a wealth of information and resource materials from the state and National PTA covering all facets of a child's life. This information is available in printed format and on the National PTA's website at www.pta.org.
- State and National PTAs assist local PTA units in developing strategies to effectively address concerns in the community.
- Each PTA unit president receives a subscription to the National PTA magazine, *Our Children*, which contains information concerning all aspects of PTA.
- Each PTA unit receives a subscription to the Iowa PTA bulletin, *One Voice*, which contains information about all aspects of PTA in Iowa.
- The Iowa PTA website, www.iowapta.org, contains a wealth of information about PTA in Iowa and provides links to relevant information at associated websites.
- Each PTA unit president is sent a monthly email newsletter from the Iowa PTA President containing reminders of upcoming events and highlights of various activities.



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Why PTA?

PTAs are nationwide networks of parents, teachers, administrators, and community members who work together on behalf of all children and youth. Only associations belonging to the National PTA may call themselves PTAs. State and National PTAs provide accurate, current information about issues affecting children.

Everyone needs the right reasons to join an organization. Consider any one of the following reasons for joining a PTA unit near you.

PTA IS THE LARGEST CHILD ADVOCACY GROUP IN THE NATION, with 6 million members nationwide, whose sole purpose is the welfare of children. PTA is a strong advocate for public education and a relevant resource for parents.

PTA CARES about anything that influences and molds children's attitudes and behavior (school, home, community, family, peers) and helps create public awareness about children's issues with grassroots advocacy.

PTA PROVIDES UNIFIED ACTION to address major issues, a unified push to improve laws and policy, an opportunity to act as a forum for ideas, and a chance to meet with others and discuss mutual concerns.

PTA IS ORGANIZED AND RUN BY PARENTS at the local, state and national levels. PTA encourages the involvement of parents, teachers, and the community in the lives and education of children and youth and provides individuals with a way to share their experience and knowledge.

PTA PROVIDES INFORMATION through access to assistance and expertise on websites, in program resources, and through the state and national offices. PTA assists units in reaching out to all members of the community and provides resources written in Spanish.

PTA PROVIDES TRAINING and leadership development opportunities to its members through workshops, conferences, online training opportunities, and on-site workshops at your school by Iowa PTA board members.

PTA COLLABORATES with other local, state and national organizations to address issues pertaining to children and youth.

NOT ALL ISSUES CAN BE ADDRESSED LOCALLY. Most laws affecting the welfare of children are made at the state and national level, not by the local government. As a part of a State and National PTA, you can extend your influence beyond your neighborhood and help secure state and national action for the benefit of ALL children.

PTA HAS TAX BENEFITS. Iowa PTAs are exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. PTA is a non-profit, non-partisan **volunteer** organization.

PTA HAS A NAME and has been a powerful force working solely for children since 1897. When you join PTA, you immediately become a member of the State and National organizations as well as your local unit. It is through this membership that you, your local unit, and ALL children will benefit.

WITHOUT LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PTAs who would speak on behalf of children? Together, we speak for every child with one voice.



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BENEFITS OF PTA MEMBERSHIP

PTA is the largest nonprofit volunteer child advocacy organization in the country. **All officers and board members, whether national, state, or local unit, are unpaid volunteers.** In order to appreciate its value and to make PTA an even more influential force, members need to know how their dues are used, as well as the benefits that come from belonging to Iowa PTA and National PTA.

No matter how much a local unit PTA charges for membership in its PTA, every month each local unit must remit \$4.25 per new member (\$2.50 State & \$1.75 National dues) to the state PTA office.

ON YOUR BEHALF, IOWA PTA (DUES \$2.50)

1. Provides an Executive Director and other administrative personnel.
2. Makes possible the Iowa PTA convention to provide information, workshops, and input into policy-making by the membership.
3. Provides a leadership conference in the fall with speakers, workshops and training.
4. Provides members of the Iowa PTA Board of Managers to conduct council and local PTA leadership training and to provide assistance upon request.
5. Represents PTA members on numerous statewide coalitions, committees and task forces involving a variety of statewide organizations and agencies, including the Iowa Department of Education.
6. Distributes state and national PTA publications, membership cards, and program materials.
7. Maintains a nonprofit status with the IRS for its participating units.
8. Provides Reflections Program to encourage participation in the Arts by children and youth.
9. Represents local units at the state legislature. The Legislative Vice President keeps the legislature informed of the PTA positions on issues relating to children and youth, and keeps the membership informed of the proposed legislative issues that affect children and youth.
10. Maintains an endowed scholarship fund and awards postsecondary scholarships.
11. Publishes the Iowa PTA e-bulletin, *One Voice*, and monthly e-newsletters.
12. Maintains a listserv to provide timely information to unit and council officers, school administrators, and individuals on the legislative Member-To-Member network.
13. Maintains a website of PTA information, documents, forms and calendar.
14. Offers Building Successful Partnerships and other Parent/Family Involvement workshops for local PTA units as requested.
15. Provides a toll free number for constituent units and members.
16. Offers comprehensive, low-cost insurance to councils and local PTA units.

ON YOUR BEHALF, NATIONAL PTA (DUES \$1.75)

1. Maintains and staffs the National PTA office.
2. Makes possible the National PTA convention which provides information, training, and policy-making for state and local PTA leaders.
3. Prints and distributes to state PTAs many National PTA publications and annual membership cards, including state office newsletter, *The Member Exchange Newsletter*, *Reflections Program Newsletter* and *State Presidents' Communique*.
4. Publishes and mails to each PTA President a subscription to *Our Children*, the national publication which contains news about current programs and projects, as well as items from the field of education.
5. Provides publications, training kits, and newsletters to local units for the purpose of providing information, assistance, and action. Annual resources include *Quick Reference Guides* for PTA leaders.
6. Pays expenses for the officers and other members of the National PTA Board of Directors (who donate their time and services) and for the National PTA Field Service staff for leadership training and consultant services to the various states.
7. Provides a National PTA representative at each state convention, field service (done mostly by volunteers), multi-state conferences, and assures attendance at meetings of other groups.
8. Channels information and resource materials to state PTAs, helping them carry on effective PTA programs in every community.
9. Makes possible the National PTA legislative conference and colloquium, which are normally held annually in Washington, DC. Provides national representation on Capitol Hill, U.S. presidential appointed committees and before other education, health and child advocacy organizations.
10. Maintains the Washington satellite office. This office strengthens the PTAs position as an influential advocate for children.
11. Represents local units in the legislative process, provides resource material for legislative chairpersons, and seeks to influence legislation affecting children and youth.
12. Provides public and PTA members' website, including e-training courses, reproducible brochures and handouts and articles on numerous topics.
13. Offers *Building Successful Partnership* training, brochures, listserv, presenters' website and funding for state PTAs.
14. Developed and coordinates the *Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence Program*.
15. Provides a toll free legislative hotline, and a national toll free number and centralized customer service department.
16. Publishes *This Week in Washington* and National PTA weekly e-newsletters.
17. Offers the *Reflections Program*.