Making Every Child’s Potential a Reality

All parents want the same things for our children: Safe and healthy todays, successful tomorrows. But the challenges facing our schools and communities can feel overwhelming.

Only 1 in 4 high school students graduate ready for college. Bullying and obesity have reached epidemic levels. Too many students lack access to the specialists, technology and advanced coursework they need.

These problems threaten our students’ chances for a bright future. You may wonder, what difference can one parent make?

With PTA, Parents Create Powerful Change

PTA brings together families, educators, and business and community leaders to solve the toughest problems facing our schools and communities. We engage and empower families and communities to speak up for all children and take action to make a difference the education, health, safety and well-being of every child.

PTA helps ensure that all students have what they need to succeed:

- High-quality education
- Safe and healthy environments
- Access to opportunities

PTA’s four program areas bring our vision into focus:

- **Student and School Success**—All students should receive a world-class education that prepares them for long-term success in college and careers. PTA programs like Take Your Family to School Week, Family Reading Experience and School of Excellence empower families to be engaged in their children’s education and support their learning, which makes a difference for student success and school improvement.

- **Health and Safety**—Every child should have a healthy and safe place to live, learn and thrive. PTA provides tools and resources—such as our Connect for Respect initiative—that help students, parents and schools work together to create a positive school climate.

- **Arts and Culture**—Every child should receive a well-rounded education with access to arts and cultural opportunities. PTA celebrates and raises awareness about the importance of arts education and provides all students the opportunity to explore and be involved in the arts through our annual Reflections program.

- **Advocacy**—All families should be at the table and empowered to advocate for their own and every child. PTA’s policy agenda, advocacy toolkit and state and national trainings make it easy for every parent to make a difference.
Join Us to Make a Difference

Parents
- Join or start local PTAs
- Participate in local, state and national learning and advocacy opportunities
- Serve on state and National PTA boards of directors and committees

Local PTAs
- Spearhead school and community improvement efforts
- Implement programs, events and activities that engage families and enrich student learning and well-being
- Influence school board decisions

State PTAs
- Connect local groups to the national network and each other
- Provide leadership training for local PTAs
- Advocate for state-level investments in education

National PTA
- Develops programs and resources for local and state PTAs
- Provides leadership and advocacy training for local and state PTAs
- Advocates for federal funding and policies that benefit all students and schools

PTA By the Numbers

- 4 million members
- 24,000 local units
- 16.5 million students served
- 59% students of color
- 55% Title I schools
- 100+ years

Learn more at PTA.org.
When Enrique’s mom got engaged in his education, everything changed.
Family engagement drives student and school success

Opportunity begins with access to a great education. But our schools have fallen behind.

Among 27 industrialized countries, American students currently rank:

- 14th in reading
- 17th in science
- 25th in math

We must do better.

More than 40 years of research shows that effective family engagement is critical for student success and school improvement.

PTA leads the charge for family engagement at all levels of education. Our programs and tools strengthen family-school partnerships and empower parents to support their children’s success in the classroom and beyond.

Learn more at PTA.org.
Since she joined her PTA's running club, Emma arrives in class more focused and ready to learn.
Children learn best when they are healthy and safe

Today’s students face serious threats:

1 in 4 report being bullied during the school year

1 in 3 children are overweight or obese.

PTA is dedicated to improving children’s physical, social and emotional well-being, at school and at home. **We advocate for policies and legislation that ensure all students have access to healthy food, physical activity and safe schools.**

Our resources and programs help families and schools inspire active, healthy lifestyles and prevent and eliminate bullying and violence to keep children safe.

Learn more at [PTA.org](http://PTA.org).
Dylan didn’t know improving his math scores could be this much fun.
Involvement in the arts increases academic achievement

Studies have shown that eighth graders who are highly involved in the arts get better grades, are less likely to drop out and are more likely to attend college.

Yet fewer U.S. students report receiving any arts education today than 25 years ago—and the declines are steepest among African-American and Hispanic students.

PTA supports a well-rounded education for all students, including the arts as a core academic subject. At the local, state and national levels, we work to ensure that all children have access to arts programs that inspire them to take risks and express themselves and build their confidence, teamwork and sense of accomplishment.

Learn more at PTA.org.
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Advocacy

There is power in our PTA voice.
Advocacy improves the lives of children

Federal law requires equal opportunities for all children.

But with only 3% of the federal budget dedicated to education, the reality is that too many students go without.

PTA is committed to ensuring that parents have a seat at the table whenever decisions are made that impact our children—at local school boards, in local and state government and in the halls of Congress. **We fight for your child and every child.**

Whether we’re advocating for high-quality early childhood education; equality for low-income students and students with disabilities; healthy and safe schools; arts and culture opportunities for every child; or increased investments in education at the local, state and national levels, there is power in our PTA voice.

Learn more at [PTA.org.](http://PTA.org)