

## Introducing PTA to Your Parents and Community Members

*We know that most people may not be comfortable speaking in public. The following is a speech you can customize for your PTA. It contains information that is true about all PTAs and also talks about the Illinois PTA.*

Hi! I'm insert name. I'm the insert title of the insert PTA name PTA.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you about PTA.

The PTA is the largest volunteer organization whose sole purpose is to help **ALL** children.

The PTA mission is to speak for children, encourage the community to become involved in and support our public schools, and help parents become more effective caretakers.

Since children cannot speak up for themselves in the community, the PTA is there for them. The Illinois PTA closely monitors legislation that may affect children and ask our legislators to vote based on the PTA position on that issue. We keep our members informed about this legislation and ask that they take part in this process. Our delegates at the annual convention determine the focus of the Illinois PTA legislative positions. We are constantly urging our legislators to adequately fund our public schools and not create any more unfunded or under-funded mandates. We speak for children at all levels of our government, from the federal level to the local school board.

PTA encourages the community to be involved in our public schools. We know that this involvement is more likely to create the best schools for our children, and to make sure that schools meet the community needs. We want the community to be aware of issues in the public schools. We want them to be involved in the decision-making process. Community members are urged to volunteer in the schools.

The PTA wants to help parents with the toughest job around. We provide programs on critical issues facing our children in today's society. This ranges from bullying and health issues to helping with homework and behavior modification. We also provide information on making proper choices in our TV viewing. This information is provided through printed materials and programs.

You may not be aware of some of our accomplishments. The Illinois PTA recently was successful in urging the State to create a separate Juvenile Justice Department so that children are not thrown into the adult criminal system. The Illinois PTA was the force behind getting the bus arms on the front of the buses, new legislation on vicious dogs, and we were involved in getting the blood alcohol concentration limit lowered.

The insert name of your PTA has been involved in: (list what your PTA has accomplished/provided for students).

We all have fun working on PTA events. We learn new leadership skills that can help us outside of PTA. We get to meet a lot of different PTA members around the state and learn from and share with them.

We want to stress that just being a member greatly helps us. The larger the membership, the louder our voice is at all levels of government. Your dues help support our work financially, and, what other nationally known organization can you join for just \$insert local unit dues amount.

If you do wish to be involved as a volunteer, let me give you some of the options you have with our PTA. We have some opportunities you can do at home on your own time and others that are more structured. We probably have something that will fit your interests and the amount of time you can spend. We have tasks that are once in awhile and some that are ongoing. Let me describe what's going on here at our local unit PTA:

**List volunteer opportunities in your PTA unit and have a sign-up sheet available.**

Again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you about PTA.