

The Value of PTA

WHAT DOES PTA HAVE TO OFFER YOU?

- ⇒ The Illinois PTA has a group exemption with the Internal Revenue Service which gives the participating local units 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. Non-PTA Groups are required to pay up to \$850 to apply for this status. The Illinois PTA provides free training for any PTA member responsible for handling monies and maintaining IRS requirements for their non-profit organization, as well as complying with state of Illinois tax statutes, etc.
- ⇒ The Illinois PTA offers leadership training courses free of charge to its members. These courses provide self-improvement training, which enables members to function well as PTA leaders as well as in other community activities. In addition, members have access to National PTA online courses on various leadership topics.
- ⇒ The Illinois PTA has trained volunteers and staff available to assist with programs, problem solving, resources, etc. Free workshops and speakers are available to local units and councils.
- ⇒ Low cost insurance is available to PTA units; General Liability, Property, Bonding (Employee Dishonesty), and Theft of Money and Securities. Other Parent Groups are paying almost \$500/year for liability insurance—compared to PTA rates of \$150-\$200/year.
- ⇒ The PTA has legislative committees at both the state and national levels that continuously work to promote laws that benefit children.
- ⇒ The PTA offers recognition of student talents' in the cultural arts, through the National PTA Reflections Program. (Categories include visual arts, literature, music, dance, film and photography).
- ⇒ The 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.
- ⇒ As a member of a local PTA unit you automatically become a member of that National PTA, which is more than 5 Million members strong, with members from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the Pacific Congress. With over 5 Million voices speaking for laws that benefit children across the nation, the PTA is the largest association that works on behalf of our children, who cannot speak for themselves.
- ⇒ As a local unit member you also automatically become a member of the Illinois PTA that maintains a membership of over 135,000. The Illinois PTA focuses on issues that are important to families and children in Illinois, specifically. In addition we serve your local unit via phone and e-mail to answer questions you may have through out the year.
- ⇒ The PTA juvenile protection projects include working with state agencies on problems of child abuse and neglect, missing and exploited children, runaways, latchkey children, corporal punishment and juveniles in the courts
- ⇒ The PTA safety projects include school crossings, school buses, seat belts, cell phone use in school zones, child seat restraints, school playgrounds, fire protection, bicycle and skateboard safety.

To become a member of the Illinois PTA, members are required to pay dues to their local units. Dues for the state of Illinois are \$2.00 per person, per year, and dues to National PTA are \$2.25 per person, per year. For \$4.25 per year, you not only receive the items listed above, you receive the peace of mind knowing that you are providing a voice for children, who have no voice for themselves. You are providing programs that educate families, better our schools, and encourage student growth. For the cost of a gourmet cup of coffee, one Sunday newspaper, or a value meal at a fast food restaurant you could be creating a better school environment, promoting parental engagement and helping to change laws that benefit the children of our state and our nation. Isn't that worth more than \$4.25 per year?

Other Parent Groups:

- Do not provide free leadership training
- Have no national or statewide affiliation or support
- Are self governing groups that have no guidelines regarding structure of the organization
- Do not provide a platform to address concerns of entire group
- Cannot obtain IRS status without substantial costs and legal fees
- Must purchase insurance individually—at higher costs
- Have no legislative voice to assist in creating laws for children
- Have few free resources available to benefit members

Illinois
PTA[®]

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How to Contact the Illinois PTA:

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