

ILLINOIS PTA CRITERIA FOR PTA WEBSITE POSTING AND LINKING

When a PTA is considering providing information about or from other organizations or linking to the websites of other organizations, it is important to align with the positions and procedures of the PTA as outlined in our policies, positions and charter rules. Should a PTA answer “NO” to any of these questions, the best course of action would be to refrain from posting or linking to any item/site that could be construed to be in conflict with the stated policies, positions or charter rules.

1. Is the posting consistent with the adopted policies and positions of the PTA?

Policies and positions can be found in numerous resources, including the Illinois PTA Answer Book, the Information and Advanced Information Course material, the Legislation Platform (Green Book), and the Yearbook. All postings should take the safety of children and youth into consideration, and be sensitive to releasing any information that could possibly put a child at risk. If linking to a school district site, know what criteria have been established regarding the release of any student information.

2. Is the posting representative of an adopted policy or position of the PTA, or merely a member of the organization?

The posting will be considered to be the position of the organization while it may, in fact, be a member’s interpretation of something that has occurred. Postings should be as factual as possible, focused on an issue rather than any individual(s) involved in an issue.

3. Is the posting consistent with recommended procedures for reporting action taken by the organization?

Since it is the recommended procedure that only the action taken by the organization be recorded, without the use of names, this policy should be observed when reporting on outside organizations as well.

4. Is the posting consistent with the Charter Rules, Mission and Objects (Purposes) of the organization?

In cases where the posting could be considered “controversial” it is best to remain focused on the issue or principle involved rather than any individual involved.

5. Is there a disclaimer on the website acknowledging that the PTA has no responsibility for the materials on a linked site?

The PTA may work with other organizations, such as the school district, and provide a link to that website. “Please note: The PTA has no editorial control over the website of any linked organization.”