

The benefits of a partnership

The PTA and the superintendent have a common goal — a quality education — which cannot be achieved by anyone acting alone; it takes a team effort of parents, teachers, and administrators working together. By developing a working partnership—communicating with each other, sharing in the decision-making, and mobilizing the community to action—together the PTA and the school superintendent can work toward a better education for all children.



**Get Connected
with PTA!**

About the Illinois PTA

The Illinois PTA, with over 140,000 members state-wide, is a volunteer organization dedicated solely to the welfare of children in their schools and communities. Illinois PTA was organized on May 30, 1900, and has since worked diligently to support public schools and to ensure that all children have equal opportunities and access to education. The Illinois PTA is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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AND
SUPERINTENDENTS



**Working Together
For All Children!**

Teamwork in Education

As chief executive officer (CEO) of the school district, the superintendent must interact with the school board, principals, parents, community leaders, teachers and students.

The school superintendent must be, first and foremost, the education leader for the community. A good working partnership between the PTA and the school superintendent is the best guarantee for a quality education for young people.



Superintendent's role: Education leader and coalition builder

PTA recognizes that the superintendent's main role is one of leadership— leadership that helps the school board identify clear goals for the schools, leadership that interprets policy guidelines to building principals and staff, and leadership that helps the community understand what the schools are and what they can be.

The superintendent also leads the way in bringing together members of the community in support of education. Members of this community coalition include parents, students, adults who have no children in school, principals and district administrators, teachers, support staff, and school board representatives. The PTA is a critical element in this coalition since it represents a broad base of parents and others willing to work actively for and with the schools to produce quality education.

Superintendent: Building a partnership with the PTA

The superintendent sets the tone for the ways in which a school district responds to parents and families. Even if the local school board welcomes community involvement in the schools, at board meetings, and in planning sessions with the school staff, its success can be affected by the openness and influence of the superintendent.

Federal and state policies do not address the relationship between schools and the PTA. If the partnership between the PTA and the superintendent is to work, both parties have important roles to play. The superintendent can help the partnership grow and last by taking the following steps:

- Supporting the development of district-wide policies on parent involvement.
- Preparing copies of district parent/community involvement policies and procedures to share with the community.
- Listening to parents.
- Strongly encouraging all schools to have a PTA and helping them organize.
- Requiring PTA and community participation in school-wide or district-wide advisory groups and committees and in communication processes.
- Sharing the decision-making process with parents and teachers.
- Providing school board agendas, administrative agendas, and action items to the PTA.
- Assisting principals and PTA officers in developing a working relationship.
- Meeting and conferring with the PTA and other community groups at their meetings.

- Assigning key administrators to represent the superintendent and to meet regularly with the PTA and community groups.
- Making it a priority to involve the community in addressing school district issues.
- Helping the community identify areas of interest, concern, and need.
- Documenting PTA input to the school board.
- Establishing events to give recognition for community involvement.

PTA: Building a partnership with the superintendent

By joining together the voices of parents, teachers, and community members, the PTA becomes a powerful partner with the superintendent in working for quality education. Here are some steps for the PTA to follow:

- Become familiar with school policies and procedures.
- Understand and use administrative channels.
- Know the different responsibilities of the board, superintendent, and principal.
- Set priorities and goals each year, and discuss these with the superintendent.
- Address issues that benefit all students.
- Expect to be heard as key community leaders and, if necessary, insist on equal access to the superintendent.
- Involve people who will participate actively on committees and task forces.
- Mobilize coalitions, when necessary, to achieve education goals or to support school issues.
- Be willing to discuss, openly, issues and options for the school district.
- Be sure to recognize the educational accomplishments of the school system,