



Reflections

The Power of Cultivating Strong Partnerships



Dr. Dred Scott | Independence School District Deputy Superintendent | dred_scott@idschools.org



The appreciation I have for the power of PTA is rooted firmly in the experiences I have had throughout my career. Almost twenty years ago, I started out as an elementary teacher in the Raytown School District. I was fortunate to work in a building with a strong PTA. In my formative years as a young educator I witnessed strong leadership, advocacy, and service provided by the building's PTA unit. As time passed, I was able to see the connection between the work of the building unit with the larger district council. I began to understand the positive influence the PTA could have on the larger community, which reached far beyond the four walls of my individual school. I came to recognize the PTA as more than a vehicle for fundraising, teacher appreciation lunches, and field day sponsorship.

I was fortunate to become an elementary school principal at the "ripe old age" of twenty-six. I was hired to lead a building with many challenges. One major challenge was the lack of consistent and meaningful parental involvement. There was a major disconnection that existed between the school and parents. A lack of trust from both sides was easy to identify. I started my principalship with a fledgling group of parents on the PTA board who wanted to make a difference. I distinctly recall the first PTA board meeting. There were a total of five people in attendance, three of which were school staff. Over the course of many years, this small group began to grow not only in number, but in the ability to positively impact the school's culture. Eastwood Hills Elementary was transformed into a thriving, supportive, and high achieving school thanks in part to the diligent work of the building PTA. I learned a valuable lesson about the importance of cultivating a strong partnership with the PTA.

That lesson continues to have a strong influence on me in my current role as a district administrator. I currently work in the Independence School District, where the PTA council has a long

and successful history. Our school district has enjoyed a great relationship with the council. I became acquainted with the work of the council by attending monthly meetings as a district representative. I typically attend these meetings to provide updates from the district and field questions from those in attendance. I enjoy my time with the group because they are always highly engaged in what is happening in the district.

Historically, our district has provided a hospitality room during the state PTA convention as a gesture of appreciation. We are not the only district in the state who has offered this amenity. However, this changed in 2009, when most districts in Missouri were faced with dire financial circumstances due in part to the recession experienced across the country. In Independence, every expenditure was scrutinized to determine ways to cut the budget. Despite the challenges, a conscientious decision was made to continue offering the hospitality room at the state PTA convention, even though many other school districts made the decision to discontinue this practice.

From my perspective, the expense of offering the hospitality room, which typically includes snacks and beverages, is a worthy investment. The PTA representatives from schools in the district are sacrificing their time to learn and grow. The least we can do as an organization is to let them know we appreciate their efforts. Many of these same individuals donate time and energy in supporting our schools in ways that far outweigh what the district spends on the hospitality room each year. We understand the real value of PTA is its ability to connect, empower, and support parents, students, teachers, schools, districts, and the greater community. We are committed to continually cultivating this important relationship. I look forward to spending more time at state conventions in the future. Other district administrators would be wise to join me!

From the Missouri PTA President

Contact me! dorothyg@mopta.org

[f MissouriPTA](#) [p MissouriPTA](#) [t @MissouriPTA](#)



Programs What are they worth?



Dorothy Gardner | Missouri PTA President | dorothyg@mopta.org

Now that the year is coming to a close, it's a good time to take an analytical look at your unit's or council's programs and events. Why? Just because your PTA has offered a particular program or event every year since the inception of time doesn't mean it is necessarily generating enough bang for the buck in relation to contributing to the PTA mission and sustaining the unit or council. Sure, it's wonderful to not have to reinvent the wheel each year but if the wheel isn't the right fit it may be time to find a new one.

Social Velocity recently published an article entitled "[Do Your Programs Contribute to Mission AND Money?](#)". This article points out that there are two basic elements necessary to run a successful nonprofit – mission and money. Which makes sense, since without a mission there wouldn't be a purpose to drive the PTA and without funds it's difficult to put the mission in action. I would interject that, regarding PTA, volunteers should also be added into the mix. Sometimes the PTA asset most needed to run a program or event is volunteers. A collection of great reliable volunteers can often equal or exceed the need for monetary resources.

The article suggests listing out all your programs and then plotting them along a matrix. This analysis is designed to label each program into one of four types – worthwhile, sustaining, beneficial, and detrimental.

- Worthwhile programs strongly relate back to the mission but might be a bit of a drain on PTA resources.
- Sustaining programs (and these are not fundraisers) may not necessarily connect to the mission but they do provide financial income.
- Beneficial programs both connect to the mission and provide financial income.
- Detrimental programs fail to connect with the mission and are a drain on the PTA's resources.

After determining which label best describes each of the programs and events it's time to act. Detrimental programs, even if they have been a staple of the PTA since the beginning of time, either need to be revamped or given the ax. Worthwhile programs are great but make sure there are enough sustaining and beneficial to help support those worthwhile programs. If your PTA is lacking in sustaining or beneficial programs it's probably a good idea to start thinking about bringing in programs that will provide enough resources to offset the drain caused by the worthwhile programs. Or consider tweaking a worthwhile program to make it more beneficial.

Don't be afraid to upset the apple cart. If no one wants to buy the apples from the cart or you can't find volunteers to man the cart is it worth the time and effort?

Missouri PTA

PTA Vision: Making Each Child's Potential A Reality

PTA Mission: PTA is a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for all families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

The **Purpose of PTA** is to promote the welfare of the children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship; to raise the standards of home life; to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth; to bring into close relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth; to develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

From the Missouri PTA President

Contact me! dorothyg@mopta.org

[f](#) MissouriPTA [p](#) MissouriPTA [t](#) @MissouriPTA

DON'T TRY AND REINVENT THE WHEEL - JUST WORK ON MAKING IT BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.

Tips & Tricks

To Get the Best Start to Your Year



Dorothy Gardner | Missouri PTA President | dorothyg@mopta.org

Missouri PTA President Connect Facebook Group

Did you know Missouri PTA has a closed Facebook Group just for unit and council presidents? This resource was put in place to provide presidents across the state with a networking tool. No PTA is an island. PTA believes we work together to achieve our common goal of helping our children reach their full potential. Being a PTA president has its own unique challenges and no one expects any president to simply know it all. Use this group to share ideas, ask questions, or ask for advice. Send a request to join at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/presidentconnect/>

Send in your officers – new and continuing

Unit and council officers were due to MOPTA March 31st. If you haven't already done so make sure to send them in ASAP. If MOPTA doesn't have your updated information it is difficult to pass along resources and information. Please note even if, due to the terms listed in your bylaws, your unit or council did not hold elections, MOPTA still needs a list of the officers who will preside over the 2017-2018 year. Officers can be submitted through our [online officer form](#).

President tips and tricks

May/June checkoff list for incoming and continuing president

- Meet with outgoing president
- Meet with incoming executive committee
- Make sure officers are sent to MOPTA
- Put an annual review committee in place
- Recruit committee volunteers
- E-learning – Presidents & Parliamentary
- See if eligible for awards (due Sept 1)
- Follow MOPTA and NPTA social media

Is this your last term? Make sure all housekeeping items have been wrapped up before the baton is passed along. Set aside time to sit down with the incoming president. Discuss your unit or council's success and failures. Share network and relationship connections the PTA has developed

over the past few years. And, make sure to pass along the records, procedure books, passwords, emails, and the online presence if your unit or council has one. Finally, make sure to give yourself a HUGE pat on the back!

Award changes & what you need to know

You might have noticed a change to the deadline for some awards. Several awards were given a new deadline of September 1st because the awards cover events, meetings and programs that happened throughout the entire year. Applications for the following awards should cover the time period of this membership year now coming to a close, July 1 – June 30th. The applications for these awards can be found under the login section of www.mopta.org. If you have lost or forgotten your login, email communications@mopta.org.

Due via email or postmarked no later than September 1st 2017:

- Outstanding Council Newsletter Award
- Outstanding Unit Newsletter Award
- Gold Seal Award Application
- Blue Seal Award Application
- Council Achievement Award Application
- Outstanding Unit Website Award
- Outstanding Council Website Award

This year, Missouri PTA challenged all units to increase their membership by at least 10%.

All units, regardless of size that increased their membership by at least 10% over last year were eligible for this drawing. There was one winner for the 10% increase category, one winner for the 15% increase category and one winner for the 20% increase category. The drawing was held and winners were announced at the Missouri PTA 2017 Annual Convention.



Congratulations to the winners of the Membership Campaign Drawings

10% membership increase \$250

Southern Boone County PTA
HERITAGE REGION

15% membership increase \$500

Chapel Lakes PTA
THREE TRAILS REGION
BLUE SPRINGS COUNCIL

20% membership increase \$750

South School PTA
HERITAGE REGION

MoPTA Membership

Communication Tips

Contact us! communication@mopta.org

 MissouriPTA

 MissouriPTA

 @MissouriPTA

Leaders
Project
Opportunity

Contribute to Contact Magazine

Earn your "Feature Article in Contact" Leaders Project requirement simply by submitting original content that meets specific content requirements.

A feature article is 400-480 words and takes up the bulk of any related page.

Articles should be professionally written, previously proofread and edited, be original content, and relate directly to the current theme or a relevant and relatable PTA topic. Articles should be submitted in Word with all hyperlinks active and include authors name, email, title and headshot photo.

The Contact Editor will put a Featured Article Button on each article that meets the requirements and send a confirmation email to each individual that submits a featured article to Contact. The Contact Editor can sign the Advanced Leaders Project Card or the individual can print their article and the confirmation email as proof for the Advanced Leaders Project.

To contribute, simply email content to contact@mopta.org

June Edition:
Items due May 20
**What if everything was
different?** (What if there
was no PTA?)



All Convention Materials now loaded onto www.MOPTA.org

As promised, you will find the workshops on our website under the PTA Login. Feel free to use them as a refresher or a resource with the other members of your unit or council. If you don't know the username and password to access the login section of our website, contact communications@mopta.org.

You can also find other valuable information in addition to our workshops: past issues of our Contact magazine, Missouri PTA Awards, toolkits and much more.

Spring Edition of Our Children Magazine Now Available

We are excited to share the spring 2017 print edition of National PTA's [Our Children Magazine](#) with you!

The theme of the magazine is the exciting world of science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM.

Please share the magazine with your family and friends or on social media.



Google Express

National PTA is pleased to announce that [Google Express](#) has become the association's newest [Proud National Sponsor](#). As a Proud National Sponsor, Google Express will play a vital role in supporting the work PTA does for children and education.

[Google Express](#) is a shopping service that connects shoppers with popular retailers for fast, convenient delivery of groceries, household items, school supplies, etc. Google Express strives to help families, PTA members and their communities save time by delivering everyday essentials right to their door from stores including Costco, Whole Foods Market and Walgreens. From now until May 31, 2017, National PTA members can get 25% off their first Google Express order, up to \$30 off*, with code PTAPOWER. Visit Google.com/Express to start shopping.

PTA Resources for You

Last month the Center for Education Safety listed [NetSmartz](#) as their website of the month. NetSmartz is a program developed by the National Center for Mission and Exploited Children and contains resources on how to educate students of all ages about internet safety.

Kids.gov provides a portal of information for kids on the U.S. government. The object of this site is to link kids, parents and teachers to information and services available relating to government agencies, schools, and educational organization.



**Missouri PTA is proud to congratulate
the Missouri students
placing at the National level of the
2017 Reflections program**

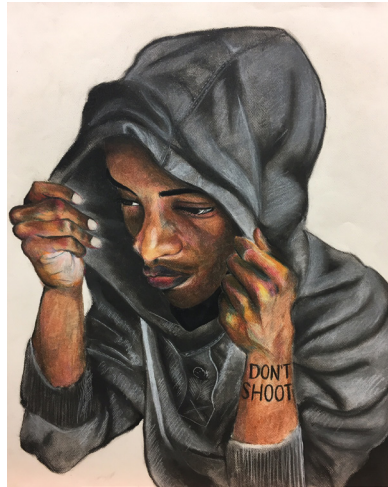
Film Production (High School Division): **Award of Merit, Marissa Kraus
2,000 Miles, Hickman High School PTA, Missouri**

Literature (Middle School Division): **Award of Excellence, Caleigh Albani
Fur Elise, Lakeview Middle School PTA, Missouri**

Literature (Primary School Division): **Award of Merit, Yordanos Miller
A Story of Me When I was Adopted, Tiffany Ridge Elementary PTA, Missouri**

Music Composition (High School Division): **Award of Excellence, Ben Rouders
Choices, Rock Bridge High School PTSA, Missouri**

MoPTA Reflections



Missouri PTA Reflections Showcase and National PTA results

It was standing room only at the 2017 Reflections Showcase on Sunday, April 30th as students, families and PTA volunteers gathered at the Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center in Columbia to celebrate this year's Reflections program, "What Is Your Story?" Students receiving 1st through 5th place and honorable mention on the state level and their families were invited to attend this special event. National PTA Secretary-Treasurer Wayne Bauman assisted Missouri PTA President Dorothy Gardner in presenting the winners with their awards as they were recognized individually on stage. The 2017-2018 theme, "Within Reach" was introduced. The sponsors for this year's showcase were Lifetouch Photography and Scholastic Photography. Their partnership with Missouri PTA helped make this event possible.

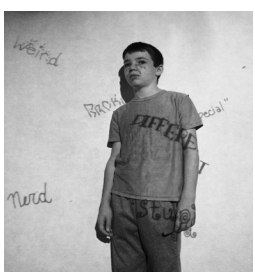
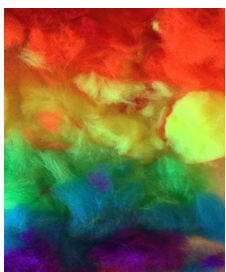
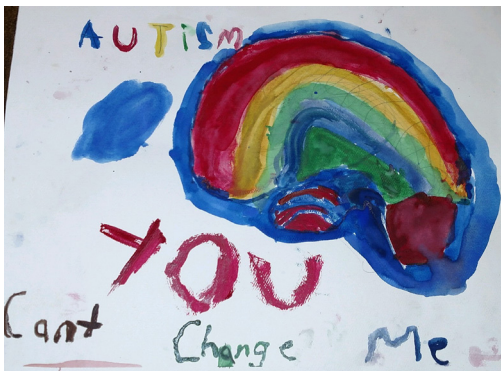
Missouri PTA is proud to announce that four **Missouri students have placed on the National level of the 2017 Reflections program.**

Marissa Kraus received the Award of Merit in the High School Division of Film Production for her entry "2,000 Miles." Marissa attends Hickman High School in Columbia. Her film tells the story of how she was adopted from Guatemala by her family, and the endless love and support they have given her.

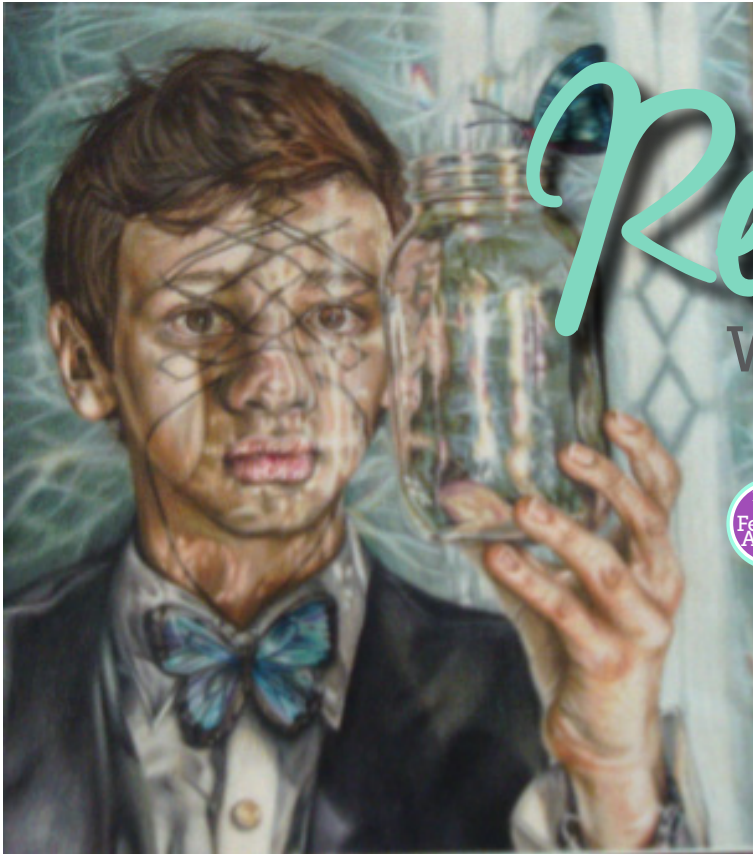
Ben Rouder is from Rock Bridge High School PTSA in Columbia. His music composition entry, "Choices" received the Award of Excellence in the High School Division. Ben says the piece is supposed to represent how in his life he has adopted the idea of the growth mindset. "It's my choice how I respond and react to different situations in life. The melody is being altered to show how it's my choice to either be neglectful, pessimistic or joyful. The epiphany that attitude is truly a choice rather than a product of circumstance has directly influenced my growth and thus my story."

Missouri had two students recognized for their Literature pieces on the National level and they are both from the Park Hill School District. Yordanos Miller is a second grader from Tiffany Ridge Elementary PTA. Her work, titled "A Story of Me When I was Adopted" received the Award of Merit in the Primary Division. Yordanos said in her artist's statement "I wrote it because I wanted everyone to know how I was adopted and why my family is important to me."

Caleigh Albani is a seventh grader from Lakeview Middle School PTA. She says her entry, "Fur Elise" is "about a girl who is frightened of her first piano recital. Her piano recital is HER story." Caleigh received the Award of Excellence in the Middle School Division of Literature.



Shown here are few of the 1st place artwork selections from photography and visual arts from the Missouri PTA State Reflections Showcase.



Reflections

We've come a long way baby!



Susan Rupert

Missouri PTA President-Elect

susanr@mopta.org

Managers to units across the state. It was and had been a very labor intensive process for many years. Needless to say when the opportunity to incorporate the online submission into our program came along it was so appropriate that the theme was "The world would be a better place if" The world of Reflections was going to be better if this technology helped make the process more efficient and easier for the local and state reflections chair.

Missouri was one of the first states to test the online submission. It was a bumpy first year but with the patience and tenacity of the local unit's Reflections chairs we helped to identify problems with the online submitting process and provided several suggestions for improvement.

We just finished the 2016-2017 Reflections program and it was probably the smoothest yet. There were very few submission issues and questions from local chairs. The online portal is much more user friendly. The local chair guide and other resources are very helpful and provide step by step guidance. These advancements have helped to make the Reflections Chair position easier than ever before but the number of units participating and student entries continues to decline.

Mary Lou Anderson started the Reflections program in 1969. The idea was to provide an opportunity for students to explore their talents and express themselves through works of art. That's what Reflections is all about - exploring, developing skills and expression. The program can also help build partnerships between the unit, school, home and community. A successful Reflections program for the 2017-2018 school year is "**Within Reach**" of every PTA unit. I challenge those units that didn't have Reflections this year to get on board now and those that did advance artwork to the state round to find ways to increase your student participation. We all have hidden talents. Let's put this creative learning opportunity "**Within Reach**" of our children.

I have had the pleasure of working with the Missouri PTA State Reflections Program the last four years and there have been a lot of changes during that time. During my first year the artwork had to be physically submitted to be considered on the state level. Units packaged up and mailed photographs, paintings, poems, CDs and flash drives with the hope that everything would arrive in good shape and on time. Some units even made the drive to 2101 Burlington Street in Columbia. It wasn't uncommon to have over 1000 entries arrive. There would be mountains of cardboard and bubble wrap with a flowing sea of packing peanuts. This sight and the task of checking in the entries was quite overwhelming. It took 6-8 volunteers the entire day to sort the pieces in categories and divisions then preview the artwork for advancing to the judges. That year all of the visual arts, photography and music composition entries came home with me to be delivered to judges in my area. Other categories went with other volunteers to judges near them. The entries were hand delivered then picked back up from the art experts. At my house, we could not walk through our dining room for over 3 months! The theme was "Believe, Dream, Inspire". I enjoyed Grant Pace's beautiful piece every day as it sat on one of my chairs. It went on to receive the Award of Excellence in High School Visual Arts and is still one of my personal favorites.

When it came time for the Reflections Showcase the artwork traveled back to Columbia and whatever entries were not picked up had to be delivered by the Board of



2017-2018

NATIONAL PTA REFLECTIONS®

WITHIN REACH



Entries from
all grades and all
abilities welcome.



DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES:
December 16, 2017

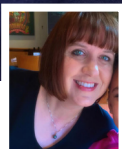
FOR DETAILS, CONTACT:
reflections@mopta.org

Learn more and get involved! **PTA.ORG/REFLECTIONS**

**National
PTA**
everychild.one voice.®

MoPTA Reflections

Legislation & Advocacy Update From Missouri PTA



Carla Wiese | Missouri PTA VP Legislation & Advocacy | carlaw@mopta.org

This legislative session has been full of voucher and charter school bills both at the state and federal level. Last month the focus of this section was about vouchers. With the rapid progression these bills are making National PTA has devoted a new advocacy effort for both this and Charter Schools. Please take a few moments to read over this important information and contact your representatives to tell them NO to MO Empowerment Scholarship Funds, these are vouchers renamed. Governor Greitens has already stated his intent to sign these bills if passed. MOPTA needs our members to let their representatives and senators know that this is BAD for MO.

2017 Proposed National PTA Resolutions

National PTA delegates will vote on the following proposed resolution and resolution amendment during the 2017 Convention, June 22-25 in Las Vegas, Nevada. You can read the entire Resolution by clicking it below:

[Healthy Sleep for Adolescents](#)
[Sale, Resale and Destruction of Firearms](#)

ESSA Stakeholder Engagement

The U.S. Department of Education released a [new guide](#) for states to use while developing their education plans under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). While ESSA requires meaningful stakeholder engagement, the new guide does not compel states to include a description of how they are engaging stakeholders while developing their plans. National PTA is extremely disappointed that stakeholder engagement is no longer prioritized in the new guide.

To assist state and local PTA members as they work to ensure state leaders include a description of how stakeholders have been meaningfully engaged in the implementation of the new state education plans, National PTA has put together this [stakeholder toolkit](#), which contains template letters, sample graphics and messaging you can use when talking to state leaders.

Missouri did not submit its plans for ESSA implementation during the initial filing period. It has indicated that it will submit its plan by September 18, 2017. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has an informative ESSA presentation on its website. We encourage you to [view the presentation](#).

Where Does National PTA and Missouri PTA stand on Private School Vouchers?

National PTA advocates for the improvement of public education for all children and to guarantee public funds are not diverted to any private school choice proposal and/or voucher system. National PTA also opposes tax credits and deductions for elementary and secondary school tuition and other education-related expenses for public and nonpublic school students. Our association believes that private school choice systems have detrimental effects on our public school systems. Public dollars must remain invested in public schools for the benefit of all students and the future of our nation. Read the [full position statement by National PTA](#) on private school vouchers.

Vouchers are BAD for public education. National PTA is a founding member of the [National Coalition for Public Education](#) (NCPE). Founded in 1978, the NCPE supports public schools and opposes the funneling of public money to private and religious schools through vouchers, tuition tax credits, education savings accounts and portability. NCPE now consists of over 50 education, civic, civil rights and religious organizations devoted to the support of public schools. Find the latest resources developed by the NCPE below: [Facts about Private School Vouchers, Studies and Reports, Key Letters to Policymakers, Latest News](#).

Where Do National PTA and MOPTA Stand on Public School Choice and Public Charter Schools?

National PTA believes that no one educational program is best for all children. Public school personnel and parents must address the different ways that children learn and how public school systems can provide the best education for all children. Furthermore, National PTA acknowledges public charter schools as one of many avenues to improving student achievement. National PTA supports public charter schools provided the authorizing bodies and schools reflect the positions and principles of National PTA in charters granted and implemented. Read the full position statements by National PTA on public school choice and public charter schools below.

[Public School Choice](#)
[Public Charter Schools](#)

Resolution

Radicalization of Youth

Whereas, Youth are actively being targeted for recruitment by extremist groups and research conducted has documented youth, due to their normal cognitive and physical development, are particularly vulnerable to the influence of violent extremism; and

Whereas, Extremist organizations are utilizing online technologies of which youth are often tech-savvy in using and spend large quantities engaging in such as social media to contact and communicate, online gaming to communicate and train, online forums to spread and stream propaganda, and detailed online magazines serving as how-to-guides and disseminating information; and

Whereas, Schools and communities are at an increased risk of being the target of radicalized extremist violent actions but are also the most effective at instituting preventative measures and legislation designed to identify and diminish the occurrences of radicalization among youth; and

Whereas, Family engagement, through positive messaging and mentoring, open dialogue, monitoring of online interaction, and awareness of radicalization or mobilization of activities or behaviors has been identified to reduce the likelihood of youth becoming radicalized or engaging in radicalized behavior; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers (Missouri PTA), its units and councils support legislation requiring school districts to establish threat assessment teams; and

Resolved, That the Missouri Congress of Parent and Teachers (Missouri PTA), its units and councils collaborate with community partners, mental health practitioners, social services, school districts, and state and local law enforcement to promote and enhance awareness of resources and effective techniques to identify and prevent radicalization of youth; and

Resolved, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers (Missouri PTA), its units and councils strongly encourage the empowering of school boards, administrators, teachers, and families to initiate disengagement activities, engage in positive messaging and mentoring, and educate bystanders on the radicalization of youth.

Your Voice
Matters!
Stay
Informed

MO PTA adopts Radicalization of Youth Resolution

April 29th the voting delegation of MOPTA during the MOPTA Annual Meeting voted to adopt the - first in the country - Resolution on the Radicalization of Youth. MO PTA is very proud to present this resolution both to National PTA and to our legislators at the State and Federal level. It is our hope that meaningful legislation will be drafted addressing this timely issue.

We know our children are becoming radicalized via social media and even chats in video games. We do want to stress that we are not speaking to any particular form of extremist groups but rather to all of them whether racial, political, religious or sexual. None of these groups have the best interest of our youth in mind. It is time MO enacts laws and equips our schools with the means to combat these ideologies. Congratulations and thank you for understanding the importance of this issue.

Your Best Year Yet

Contact us! communications@dese.mo.gov

 MissouriPTA

 MissouriPTA

 @MissouriPTA



Our Main Goal

Preparing, Developing and Supporting Effective Educators

Nancy Bowles | DESE Communications Specialist | communications@dese.mo.gov

Preparing, developing and supporting effective educators is one of the main goals of Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). That's why DESE worked for five years with higher education institutions, education associations and public schools from around the state to develop [annual performance reports](#) for educator preparation programs (APR-EPP). These reports encourage continuous improvement in the programs while giving reliable data about each program's performance to parents and students who are considering careers in education.

Data for nearly every educator preparation program in Missouri is in the reports. The only ones not included were those producing 15 or fewer students over the last five years. Most preparation programs scored in the top two tiers of performance.

The APR-EPP is divided into four performance levels:

- Tier 1 – 90 to 100 percent of the possible points
- Tier 2 – 70 to 89 percent of the possible points

- Tier 3 – 50 to 69 percent of the possible points
- Tier 4 – 49 percent or less of the possible points

A few programs scored in the third tier, and none scored in the fourth tier. The APR-EPPs are based on five years of reporting by educator preparation programs at Missouri colleges and universities. The criteria include how many candidates passed the content assessment within two tries and how well teacher candidates scored in the subjects they intend to teach. The APR-EPP results also include survey results from first-year teachers, principals of first-year teachers, new principals and the supervisors of new principals as an indicator of each preparation program's effectiveness.

If you would like to dig deeper into what the APR-EPP means, you can take a look at [DESE's comprehensive guide](#). The information provided by the APR-EPPs will help our state reach its goal of having an effective teacher in each classroom and an effective school leader in every building.

Department Schedules ESSA Plan Submission for September 18

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will submit the Missouri Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan by Sept. 18, 2017. The Department is forming the framework for the state's plan for school improvement and accountability – the Missouri School Improvement Program 6 (MSIP 6), and we want to ensure alignment between the state system and the ESSA submission.

Missouri is well-positioned to lead the nation on student success

through our own homegrown systems. By taking additional time to gather feedback and establish our vision for education in Missouri, we hope to create a high-quality plan that meets the needs of all children.

To see the ESSA Presentation made to the State Board of Education, feedback from last year's Regional Meetings on Education or to stay informed about the ESSA plan submission process, please bookmark/visit [our website](#).

Your Best Year Yet

Contact us! office@mopta.org

 MissouriPTA

 MissouriPTA

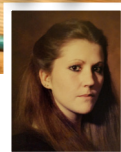
 @MissouriPTA

CHANGE IS
HARD AT FIRST,
MESSY IN THE
MIDDLE AND
GORGEOUS AT
THE END

ROBIN SHARMA

Bylaws

Why you need Bylaws for your Unit and/or Council



Elaine Gerstenberger | Missouri PTA Bylaws Chair | elaineg@mopta.org

Healthy, Safe and Ready to Learn

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an evidence-based home visiting program that builds strong families and promotes positive parent-child interaction so children are healthy, safe and ready to learn.

Review this fact sheet from the Parents as Teachers National Center to see how PAT [increases school readiness and achievement](#). For more information about strengthening your district's PAT program, contact your [Early Learning Supervisor](#).

Without bylaws, meetings could be chaotic and unproductive as board members make up the rules as they go along. The purpose of bylaws is to lay out the rules of conduct and authority for your board of directors and officers, and as a nonprofit. Your bylaws are considered a legal document that dictates how the organization must be governed. Failure by a board to follow the stipulations outlined in the bylaws can have devastating consequences to the organization and potentially even to the board members themselves.

Bylaws are required to be submitted every three years, do you know who prepared your bylaws and what the most current State and National PTA updates are? Make sure you are

really reviewing your bylaws not just sending in the last copy for approval.

Rule of thumb is at one of your first board meetings - ensure that every board member has a copy of the bylaws and that they have read them.

Bylaws will be returned to you if:

- Bylaws do not have a cover letter
- Bylaws are not submitted as a .doc (word) only

Please review [Suggest Bylaws](#) and [Coversheet](#) which can be found on www.mopta.org.

Any questions or concerns, contact me at bylaws@mopta.org.

Missouri
PTA[®]
Online Store

Shop-PTA.com
Apparel, awards, gifts, supplies and more!



Friendly, Creative, Detailed, Loving and Caring

Carrie Dixon | Missouri PTA Resource
Development Chair | carried@mopta.org

My husband Mike and I live in Kansas City with our 3 children, Mikayla (15), Joshua (14) and Stephen (9). We have the privilege of running Three Trails Camp for the Salvation Army year-round. It really is a dream job and we love it. We enjoy spending time with our family, being outdoors, and watching our children thrive as they grow.

Through the years I have had many opportunities to be involved and volunteer in our community. One way I have chosen to serve is through my involvement in PTA. I have served in our local PTA units for the past 11 years in many positions including Programs, Membership and President. My favorite position to serve in was President for Independence Council PTA. It was in that position that I got to see firsthand how important PTA's role is in the advocacy for all children.

I continue to be involved on the local level of the three different schools my children attend and feel PTA is vital to the success of our schools. I am also currently serving on the Missouri State PTA Board of Managers as the Resource Development Chair.

My position was created to help our local unit members be more informed and aware of the resources and programs that are available to them through National and Missouri State PTA.

What makes you stand out?

I am a natural leader. When I lead I try to include everyone, have a positive attitude and inspire others to be leaders.

Describe yourself in 3 to 5 words

Friendly, Creative, Detailed, Loving, Caring

Healthy living tip

Choose joy and be quick to forgive and show grace

What you are learning this year?

How to help my children to make mistakes and learn from them. I know that it's an important part of their growth.

What is a goal you have this year?

To not let the last ten minutes affect the next ten minutes.

What is a proud accomplishment?

Helping to get a Bond passed in our school district this spring.

Something interesting you've done this year

I went on a cruise with my mother-in-law and sister-in-law. We enjoyed every minute of our week at sea together.



Carrie's Favorites:

Food
All Latino Food
Movie
You've Got Mail
Music Artist
JJ Heller
Author
Francine Rivers
Activities/Hobbies
Decorating, party
planning, and
gardening.



As the VP of Field Service, I work directly with the Regional Directors to support all PTA units in Missouri. I assist groups wanting to organize as a PTA. I am also responsible for Schools or Information and Training. I live in the Gateway Region and I've been involved in PTA for 16 years and 6 years in MoPTA Board of Managers.

Patient, Kind and Organized



Sarah Day | Missouri PTA VP & Director of Field Service | sarahd@mopta.org

In July, I turn 50 years old. To most that would be enough to cause panic attacks. For me, this is just one reason to reflect.

A little over ten years ago, I was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. This makes me question whether I will be given another 10 years cancer free.

Also while I'm 50, my only child will graduate from college. She will move on to the next stage in her life and my husband and I will be forced to become empty nesters. My husband's answer to this? He recently purchased an RV. I, on the other hand, have been spending many nights reflecting back on the first 50 years and praying for another 50. This reflection also includes my 16 years in PTA.

My mother was a PTA leader when I was in elementary school. Even though she died before my daughter turned one, she continues to be my role model. I joined PTA when my daughter started kindergarten and quickly assumed leadership roles, mainly because there were many vacancies.

I realize now that PTA has become a big part of who I am. Because I do not have children in public school anymore, I ask myself, "am I still an effective PTA leader, should I continue in PTA?" For now, the answer is, yes. I believe in the PTA Mission and Purpose. I am passionate about child advocacy. I believe the answer to so many issues in our schools is parent engagement. For me, PTA makes a positive impact in my community and I want to continue to be part of that.



Sarah's Favorites

Food: **Cheeseburger & Fries**
TV Show: **Any home improvement show**
Music/Band: **Classic Rock**
Activities/Hobbies: **Gardening & Camping**
Quote: **The more we know, the better we do.**

Healthy Living Tip:
Everything in moderation

Scholarship Recipients

2017
Congrats!
winners

Missouri PTA is pleased to announce our 2017 scholarship recipients. These recipients were chosen from over twenty applications based on their academic integrity, community service,

recommendations from teachers and counselors and their desire, passion and commitment to the teaching profession. We are proud of the accomplishments of these young people and we look forward to their future success.

Three students are recipients of our Carolyn B. Ullmann (CBU) Fund scholarship. (The CBU fund is the original Missouri PTA Scholarship fund established in 1923).

The first is Bruce Menard from North Kansas City High School, Gladstone, MO who plans to attend Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville to study Mathematics Education. Bruce is a member of the National Honor Society, has been busy serving as a Student Senate Ambassador, a Scholar Bowl member, an Eagle Scout, an A+ program mentor, and working in the Theater Department. His hope as a math teacher is that students will be excited to come to his Math classes, making math enjoyable by his love for Math and teaching others, bringing a smile to their faces when they learn how fun and easy math can be under Bruce's guidance.

Janna Jordan is our second recipient and is from Ozark High School, in Ozark, MO. Janna plans to attend Missouri State University, in Springfield on her journey to become an Elementary Education Teacher. Janna participated on the Swim Team, Culture Club, FFA, was an A+ mentor all while being a full-time Nanny and working in food service during her time at Ozark High School. She also was active with the HOPE Convoy in 2016 showing her passion for public service and helping others. Janna believes positive experiences to students in elementary education are critical for their future and life. She wants to help make differences in children's lives and will adapt a separate learning style for each of the students to that he or she will succeed and excel.

The third recipient is Carman Stephenson from Liberty North High School in Liberty, MO. Carman plans to attend William Jewell College in Liberty where she will study Elementary Education. During her high school years, she has been a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Speech and Debate, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Key Club, and Track and Field Team. She has been mentoring and tutoring with the Educational Internship Programs as well as Educator's Rising her senior year. Carman hopes to be a role model for her students by making them want to succeed for themselves. She stated in her application that "my career goals don't necessary involve making lots of money, but being good at teaching, always learning and becoming better from her students each day as well.

Lindsey Vaiciulis from Cameron High School in Cameron, MO is our 2017 recipient of the Dillard A. Mallory Fund Scholarship for Social Studies and the Humanities. She plans

to attend the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, MO majoring in Secondary Social Studies Education. While attending Cameron, Lindsey was active with the National Honor Society, Family Career Community Leaders of America Chapter President, class officer, Cross Country, Track and Field, Cheerleading, Cameron Sea Dragon Swim Team and serving at Grand River YMCA Gators Swim Team. She has volunteered in the Cameroon Cadet Teaching Program the last two years where she discovered her love for history could help educate others. By tutoring students in her Cadet Teaching she has grown a deeper appreciation and accepts a calling that it is her mission in life to help others learn the appreciation of social studies.

Emily Zawodney-Walkup was selected as the recipient of the Helen B. Maupin Foundation Scholarship and is from Benton High School in St. Joseph. Emily plans to attend Missouri Western State University in the fall to pursue a degree in Secondary Education in Spanish or Language Arts. Emily was a member of The National Honor Society and Interact Club President from 2014-2017. She was active on the Volleyball and Soccer teams, DECA, Choir, Foreign Language Club, Art Club, Prom Committee as well as being on the Academic team 2013-2017. She served her community by volunteering on the Youth Group, Adopt a Highway Program, Second Harvest Food Bank, Special Olympics Bowling and the Salvation Army Bell Ringing campaign. Her future endeavor is to gain more education and learning so she will be equipped to educate students as finely as she has been. "I wish to not solely but rather mold my students into upstanding citizens who contribute to society in a positive demeanor."

Missouri PTA offers scholarships to assist and encourage young people to enter into the teaching profession. Applications are available on our website beginning in December. Each high school with at least one PTA unit "in good standing" in its district is eligible to send one application to Missouri PTA for scholarship consideration. Since the 1920's, our goal in providing scholarship opportunities is to help outstanding students realize their dream of becoming teachers. Each scholarship recipient will receive a stipend of \$500 per year up to a maximum of \$2,000 (subject to continued eligibility). In addition to these five new scholarship recipients, eleven students will be eligible to renew their scholarships and receive \$500 disbursements this fall.

The Missouri PTA Scholarship Program is funded by scholarship investment income and receives continuing financial support from contributions by local units and councils of the Missouri PTA, as well as individual gifts and memorials. The fund receives additional support from one-half (1/2) the proceeds from each Missouri PTA Distinguished Service Award and all proceeds from the sale of each Missouri PTA 100th anniversary commemorative book Honor, Celebrate, Imagine. Missouri PTA appreciates the support of its member units and councils in helping perpetuate these awards.

PTA vs. Unaffiliated Parent Groups

What Makes the “PTA Difference” So Much Better for Schools?

The Power of PTA: PTA Makes a Difference

Over the past 120 years, PTA has helped solve some of the biggest issues facing America’s children. Many of the structures all children benefit from today—child labor laws, universal kindergarten, the National School Lunch Program and the juvenile justice system—were accomplished as a result of PTA members’ advocacy.

And it’s not just at the national level. Our state and local PTAs change lives too. Florida PTA members helped to defeat a piece of state legislation that would allow for-profit management companies and other corporate interests to take over public schools, keeping children’s educations from effectively being bought and sold. Washington State PTA worked to secure the passage of several major state education reforms, improving the day-to-day lives of children across the state. The impact of PTA is felt far and wide across our country.

“An unaffiliated parent group is at one school and it only cares about those kids, period. From the beginning, PTA was for all children. I joined PTA because I believe that when I am helping somebody else’s kids, I’m helping my kids too.”

—**Maria Kenner**, PTA member, Demossville, Ky.



The PTA Difference

PTA—Founded in 1897, Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is a nationwide network of 4 million families, students, educators and community leaders working at the school building, district, state and national levels to improve education, health and safety conditions for our children. National PTA’s mission is to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Unaffiliated Parent Groups

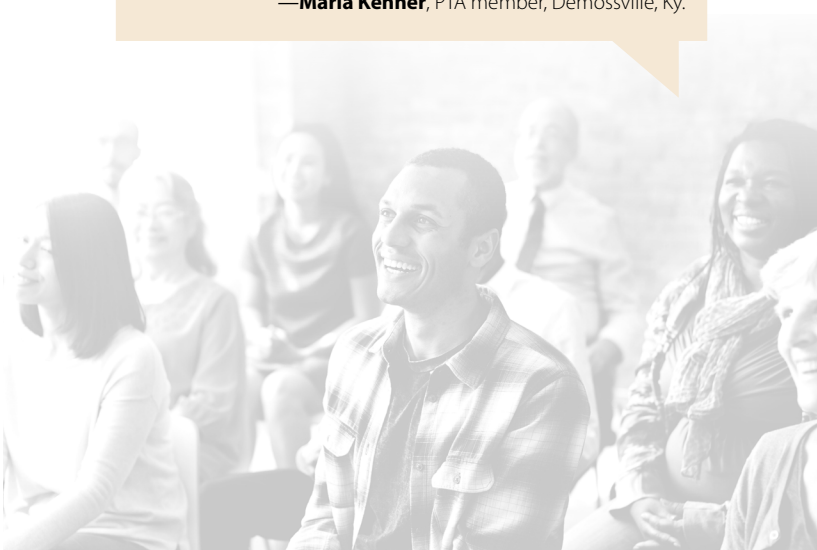
These groups are comprised of families focus exclusively on issues at their school and are not part of a larger organized network, so have no way to impact decisions beyond their own schoolyard.

We commend all of the caring adults who join a parent group to support student learning and develop positive partnerships with their school’s officials. PTA believes, however, that the issues that affect our children today extend beyond their individual schools.

As parents, we have a universal desire to make sure our children are healthy and safe. We want to give them the tools and resources they need to grow, learn and thrive. We want them to reach their full potential. That common desire is what gives the Parent Teacher Association its power.

We have been an ardent advocate for bettering the lives of every child because we know we cannot only focus on our own children. We must care for other people’s kids, because the lives of our own children—or grandchildren—will be affected by contact with those other kids. If someday your son needs a critical operation, someone else’s child will be the surgeon. If someday your daughter is the victim of a violent crime, someone else’s child will be the judge.

This is why we work to advocate for every child. When you help one child, you are helping all children in the school community and potentially the nation.



Valuable Resources

Administrative factors also set PTA apart from other parent groups. PTA offers a national and state infrastructure, with staff and trained volunteer leaders available to assist PTAs in securing nonprofit status, filing government paperwork, creating bylaws, purchasing low-cost insurance and training leaders. These support services are included in PTA membership at no additional cost.

PTA schools have access to experts, resources, trainings and dozens of programs and initiatives to encourage arts education, healthy lifestyles and family reading.

Over the years we've had a PTA in Georgia sponsor vision clinics for low-income students. And in Detroit, Mich., a PTA runs after-school programs that keep kids off the streets. In California, a PTA created a buddy system between families with limited English proficiency and other bilingual families.

When a school has a PTA, parents are better informed and more engaged, and the learning environment is more supportive for students—plus, the school has a better reputation in its community.

Three key benefits of being part of the PTA community



Information

PTA offers email newsletters that keep members up-to-date on the latest grant offers, program updates and advocacy alerts. PTA members know and are prepared for what's happening in education around the country.



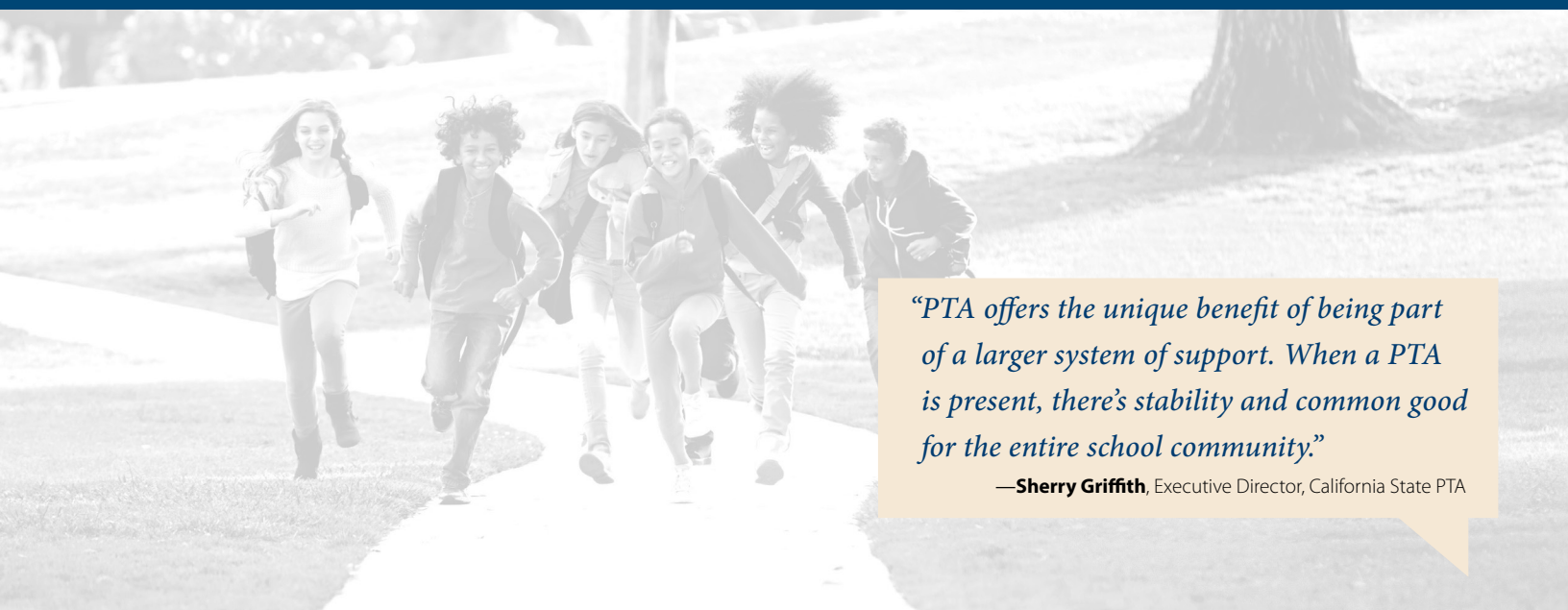
Guidance to Run Your PTA

Running any parent group can be challenging and sometimes overwhelming. Only PTA offers a Back-to-School Kit and an e-learning webinar library to help PTA leaders become trained and prepared to serve their communities and manage local PTA units. Unaffiliated parent groups do not have this vast set of guides, sample templates and tips to use in their school.



Networking

Need help figuring out a problem at your child's school or want to spread a great idea around? You'll be able to interact with like-minded parents at district, state and national PTA functions.



“PTA offers the unique benefit of being part of a larger system of support. When a PTA is present, there's stability and common good for the entire school community.”

—**Sherry Griffith**, Executive Director, California State PTA

Why PTA Matters

It's important to know that many of the decisions that impact children's education are not made by educators at their schools. These decisions frequently come from district, state or federal officials. According to the 2012 U.S. census, there are 114,991,725 households in the United States, but only 33,763,140 contain children of school age (age 3-18). This means that less than 30% of U.S. households have children in school—and over 70% do not.

So, when issues affecting children and schools are discussed, families with children need to join forces with teachers and school administrators to be heard, because there is a good chance that the people making the decisions (politicians, school board members, community leaders, etc.) do not live with children. PTA has the ability

to use our collective voice to share real-life experiences about what it is like to raise a family today—or go to school—with the critical decision-makers who may not have that perspective. If they don't live with or know about today's challenges, how can they clearly see tomorrow's solutions?

PTA gives parents a united and powerful voice, a seat at the decision-making table and the tools to influence change that will better the lives of all children.

Unaffiliated parent groups by design do not have this type of influence on their community, region, state or at the federal level. The ability to speak for every child with one voice is the Power of PTA.

Hidden Risks: The Liabilities of Unaffiliated Parent Groups

PTA is a household name that is part of the fabric of America. Our name is widely recognized—93% of people surveyed name PTA first over any other child advocacy group. Our brand helps PTA establish rapport with parents, educators, school boards, businesses, as well as local, state and national policymakers. So when challenges and issues arise, a PTA has much more support and influence than an unaffiliated parent group.

Unaffiliated groups do not have the guidance and support that local PTAs have from their state and National PTA. Most unaffiliated parent groups have little or no help with bylaws, sound financial management, leadership training, nonprofit status, parliamentary procedures, risk management, etc. This lack of knowledge creates a greater possibility of liability for both the unaffiliated group and the school.

Unaffiliated groups are more likely to increase a school's liability and trigger lawsuits. According to Elgin Allen, owner of Association Insurance Management, "Among the unaffiliated groups we insure, 10% have embezzlement claims, as compared to 1% of PTAs." The biggest risk to the school are lawsuits involving bodily injury occurring at an unaffiliated group activity held on school property. Unlike unaffiliated groups, most PTAs have insurance and some put the school on their policy as an additional insured, which protects the school if a lawsuit arises from an activity held on school property.

It's also important to note that PTA dues support the work in your school community and help state PTAs and National PTA provide important research, policies, professional development tools and public relations support for PTAs when they encounter difficult situations or simply want to improve on how they run their PTA. This means that local PTAs can reach out to their state PTA and National PTA for guidance when they face unanticipated challenges that encumber their good intentions.

"Among the unaffiliated parent groups we insure, 10% have embezzlement claims, as compared to 1% of PTAs."

—Elgin Allen, Owner, Association Insurance Management

Who PTA Serves

PTA is the oldest and largest child advocacy association in America, comprised of over 24,000 local PTAs and 4 million members. As part of this nationwide network, parents have a voice in decisions that impact children in their individual schools, and at the district, state and national levels.

16.5M

Students served in the U.S., District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Department of Defense Schools in Europe

55%

of PTAs serve Title I schools

59%

of students we serve are students of color

71%

of PTAs serve elementary schools

\$280K+

in grants awarded to PTAs/schools for program efforts

69%

of dues spent on programs for PTAs and families