

Family Engagement in School:
Crucial to All Successful Student Outcomes

2021 PTA Leadership Convention

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Welcome

Thank you for this opportunity

As it is to you, PTA is very important to me as well

I am lucky to have had the opportunity and
to have done a lot of volunteer work and
community service and
have found it to be very meaningful

What could be better or more critical than
volunteering for the mission of PTA

Every child one voice

It is the best

It is a Privilege

to speak to friends who put their
time
energy
ideas
talents
skills and
financial support
towards helping
the most vulnerable
members of the community,
the children

Family engagement is crucial to
successful student outcomes
across all demographic groups

“[T]raditional family engagement practices don’t always meet the needs of each and every family, nor treat them as equal partners in ensuring their child’s success. Family-School partnerships often focus primarily on academic success, but [whole child development](#) is also an essential part of the conversation.” National PTA

“Transformative family engagement is a shared effort of families, schools and community leaders to advance programs, practices and policies that empower every parent to make their child’s potential a reality.”

National PTA

4 Principles of Transformative Family Engagement

INCLUSIVE

Embracing and
valuing diverse
perspectives.



INDIVIDUALIZED

Meeting the
unique needs
of every family
and child.



INTEGRATED

Connecting
and aligning
with the
educational
system.



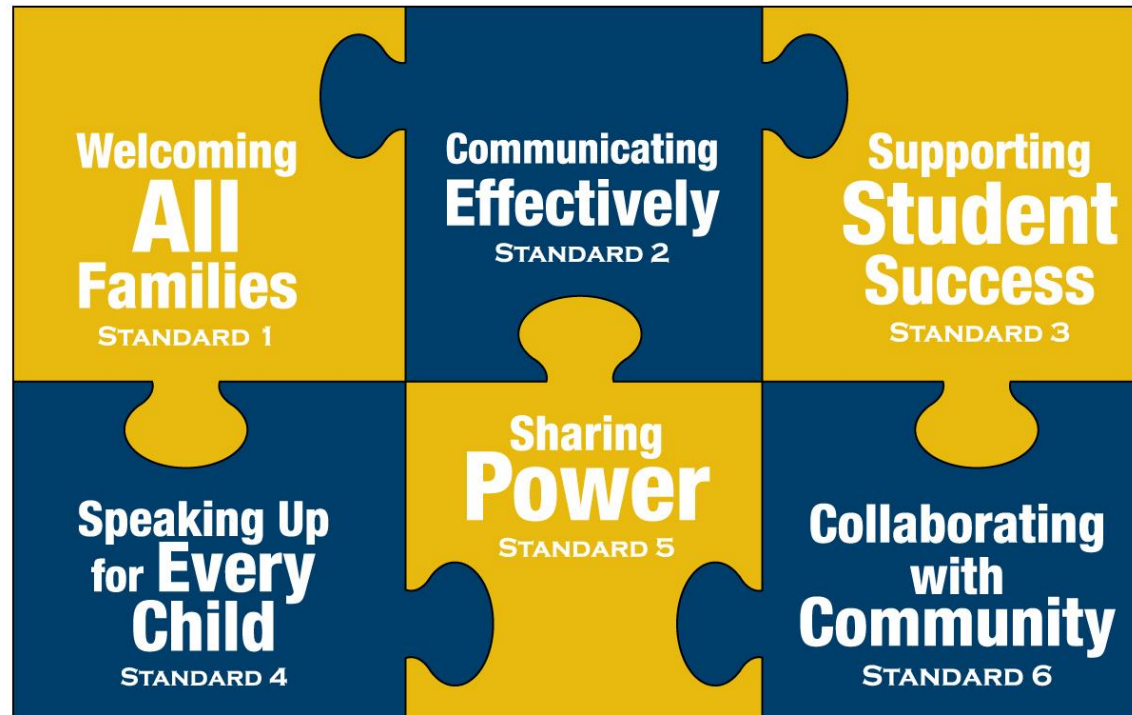
IMPACTFUL

Empowering
families to
support their
child's success.



Illustration by [unreadable]

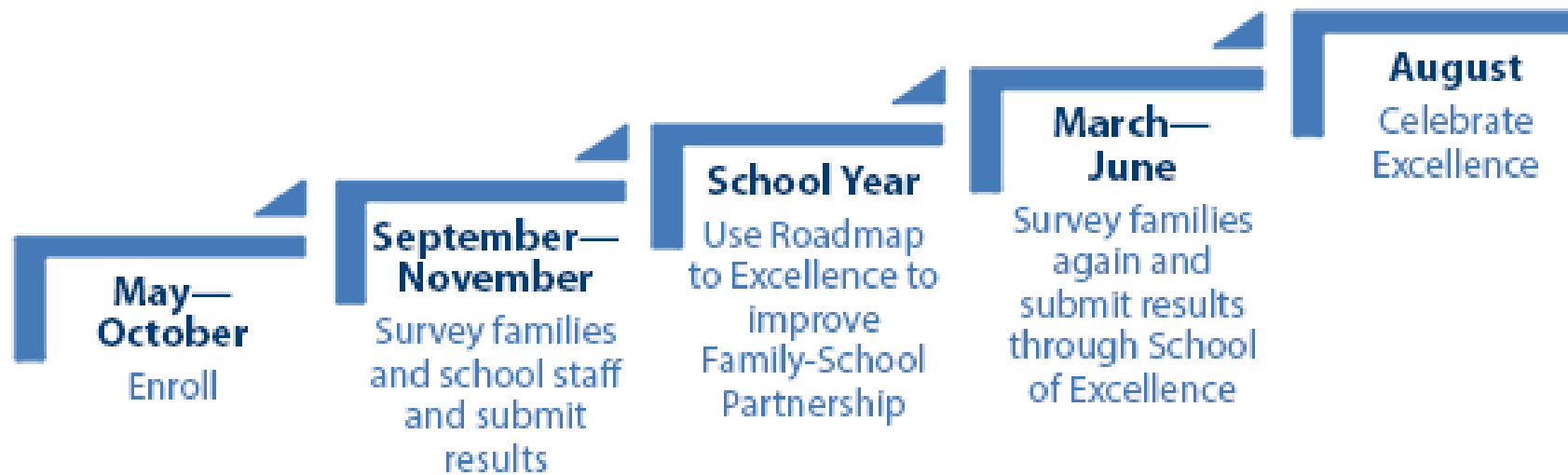
National Standards for Family-School Partnerships



[PTA.org/excellence](https://pta.org/excellence)

National PTA School of Excellence Program

- **Step 1:** Enroll and Gain Support (*June 1 –Oct. 1*)
- **Step 2:** Deploy Baseline Survey (*Sep. –Nov.*)
- **Step 3:** Set a Shared Objective (*Sep. –Nov.*)
- **Step 4:** Complete Initial Application (*Submit by Nov. 1*)
- **Step 5:** Follow Roadmap to Excellence (*Throughout School Year*)
- **Step 6:** Deploy Final Survey (*March –June*)
- **Step 7:** Complete Final Application (*Submit by June 1*)
- **Step 8:** Celebrate Your Excellence (*Aug.*)



Have Confidence in Yourself

And in PTA

You can do it

There are no secrets to family engagement

Search your hearts

You already know what you need to do

That is why you came to this workshop

May need that little inspiration, encouragement or
direction

If you need more help state PTA is here to support you

Some Ways of Being Diverse

Race

Ethnicity

Country of origin

Language spoken

Gender

Ability

Religion

Socioeconomic status

More Ways of Being Diverse

School district / state, etc. of birth or youth

Or has lived in multiple states

Rural, urban or suburban in origin

Military status

Number of parents in household

Whether a parent stays at home

Only child or one of siblings

Foster status

Recognize Diversity and Be as Inclusive as Possible

However please remember racial inclusivity

Current research tends to show

that when we focus on

nonracial inclusivity

that racial inclusivity tends to suffer

Also instead of not seeing skin color

See and appreciate all colors of skin

Additional Reasons to Be As Inclusive as Possible

Grow membership

(VERY IMPORTANT to legislative advocacy efforts of PTA)

Reflect the children and families your unit serves

Know the needs of your unit better

Be more responsive to the needs of your unit

Reach more families / have programs and events
be better attended

Stand on the correct side of history

It is the right thing to do

How to Be As Inclusive as Possible

What to do

Know thyself

In addition to your unit's general self assessment and plan for improvement

National PTA DAI self assessment tool

How to Be As Inclusive as Possible

What to do

Brainstorm all the friends whom you would like to welcome

Brainstorm all the ways would like to welcome friends

(Which may be dependent on whom you try to welcome--

ie, welcome parents who work outside the home

by holding meetings in the evenings or

in the mornings before they go to work)

How to Be As Inclusive as Possible

What to do

Do DAMI self assessment

Survey your families

Appoint a DAI specialist (Local, Council and Region levels)

Hold a cultural night

Ask a friend to do a demonstrate how to prepare a dish from his or her culture

Hold topical mini DAI trainings at each Executive Committee, Board or General Membership Meeting

In addition to forwarding entries onto state could even award local entries

How to Be As Inclusive as Possible

What to do

Whatever level you are at in inclusion

Or at any of your other organizational or personal goals

try to advance them all by at least one level

Constant improvement

If overwhelmed start small

Do one inclusive thing for one diverse group of friends

How to Be As Inclusive as Possible

What to do

Otherwise try to incorporate DAMI

into your overall plan for improvement as much as possible

Ultimately PTA wants you to have the strongest unit you can possibly have

Organizational and Meeting Best Practices

Recruitment

Membership and volunteer appreciation, certificates, thank you notes /

Retention

Signage and fliers in the languages of the families

Organizational and Meeting Best Practices

Fliers going home and

- Parking lot drop off signage

- advertising meetings

Greeters

Agenda

Preschool play area

- Did everyone see it

- I do one for every board meeting

- See the cute babies

Organizational and Meeting Best Practices

Culturally sensitive holiday cheer

Hospitality if you can

When broaching conversations

where there might be disagreement

you should always break bread

Icebreakers

Reverence

Organizational and Meeting Best Practices

Interactive discussions rather than

lectures which could be emailed or

sent home in a flyer

Move around

don't hide behind the desk

The general is the one on the horse

Who rides around encouraging the troops

Get out and greet people

Organizational and Meeting Best Practices

Make name tags

Done in a meeting service projects

Advertised attendance door prizes if you can

Organizational and Meeting Best Practices

PTA After Dark

Newcomers' clubs

Watch DOGS Dads of Great Students

Playground parents

Pastries with Parents

Organizational and Meeting Best Practices

Mentor mentees

Remember that in some cultures

families have not been asked as much to participate in school activities

In the USA we want families to be active at schools

Cultural night with

Tables about each culture of the school

Keep trying

Organizational and Meeting Best Practices

Apply for LEAP awards

Everyone here is most likely eligible

for at least the first level of LEAP awards

Seek state PTA recognition of your unit

Seek National PTA School of Excellence recognition

Any or all of these application processes

will help you implement best practices

Organizational and Meeting Best Practices

PTA exists in a not for profit environment which is very competitive
for membership and volunteer hours

We want PTA to be school families'

Volunteer and Child advocacy organization of choice

PTA Legislative Advocacy

Every legislative session the capitol is filled to the brim

With well meaning, passionate people who try to make their voices be heard

Who try to make a difference

We are very lucky that through its longstanding, well thought out and heartfelt legislative efforts
that PTA is one of the organizations which is able to sway lawmakers

PTA moves the line legislatively on issues which are important to children

This is the reason why we must keep our membership numbers up

PTA reports our numbers every year to the Utah legislature as well as to Congress

Our membership numbers directly affect the strength of PTA's voice on the hill

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Please contact me any time

Follow Utah PTA



Facebook

Groups you can join:

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- Utah PTA Super Secondary
- Utah PTA Excellent Elementary
- Utah PTA Treasurers
- Utah PTA Reflections
- Utah School Community Councils



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SILVER



GOLD



OTHER

