

Creating and sustaining PTA In Diverse Communities

- **Presenters:**
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Presentation Objectives

Participants will have

- Knowledge of PTA 6 Standards for Family Engagement
- An understanding of the power unspoken communication
- Improved tools to identify and support leaders who reflect the diversity of the school community.
- An understanding of the importance of perspective in building a 21st century PTA

National Standards, Goals, and Indicators for Family-School Partnerships

- **Standard 1: Welcoming all families into the school community**
- **Standard 2: Communicating effectively**
- **Standard 3: Supporting student success**
- **Standard 4: Speaking up for every child**
- **Standard 5: Sharing power**
- **Standard 6: Collaborating with community**

Unspoken Communication

What am I communicating

- There are about 6,912 languages around the world being taught, read, spoken and written.
- What are we communicating even when we are not speaking

Perspective is Important

- All Parents Have Dreams for Their Children & Want the Best for Them
- All Parents Have the Capacity to Support Their Children's Learning
- Parents and School Staff Should Be Equal Partners
- The Responsibility for Building Partnerships Between School & Home Rests Primarily with School Staff, Especially School Leaders

How Can You Deal with Issues of Race, Class, and Culture?

Diversity brings rich resources and opportunities for schools and communities, but it also can bring conflicts and misunderstandings.

- Welcome and Respect All Families
- Promote Understanding of Different Cultures
- Recognize and Address Class and Language Differences
- Address Issues of Race and Racism

What is Culture?

- How do you define culture?
- How does cultural diversity enrich a PTA?
- How can schools form better partnerships with parents and stakeholders of diverse backgrounds?
- How does cultural diversity enrich children's learning and success in the classroom?
- What are some strategies that improve the achievement of culturally and linguistically diverse students?

The Who, What, When, Where & How of Creating a Diverse PTA

- Who are the families and stakeholders you are reaching out to?
- What are you doing to ensure all families feel appreciated, welcomed, respected in PTA activities?
- What kinds of meetings and events are you holding?
- When is the best time to reach out to families?
- Where do you hold PTA meetings and events?
- How do you reach out to families?
- How do you keep in touch with families?

PTA Star Search

- How do you identify emerging parent leaders?
- How do you recruit parents to assume leadership positions?
- How do you prepare parents to assume leadership and decision making positions?
- How do you build leadership capacity of the PTA?

Coordinate and Cultivate

- Coordinate means to organize work so that good things happen—whether you are in control or not.
- Cultivate means to discover and encourage people’s capabilities, values, and ideas—whether they report to you or not.

The Makers and The Breakers

- What are the barriers and challenges to establishing and maintaining a diverse PTA?
- What are some effective strategies to establish and maintain a diverse PTA?

Leaders Need to be Different

- Develop yourself as a non-positional leader
- Create ways for people to work together
- Recruit the right players
- Build support and momentum for cross-boundary endeavors
- Fostering collaboration

Strategies for a Sustaining PTA

- Provide multiple ways for families to give input on issues, policies, programs, etc.
- Know your community - Use your school data (demographics, perception, student achievement, & programs) to learn about your families and students and make sure your PTA is representative of all your families.
- Involve representative parents in committee and subcommittee work.

More Strategies

- Create an environment for interactive meetings.
- Conduct the meetings in multiple languages, if necessary.
- Hold meetings in conjunction with existing school events.
- Sponsor cultural activities that reflect families' backgrounds.
- Link families to people, resources and organizations in the school and community.
- Have printed materials in multiple languages, if needed.

Strategies for a Diverse PTA

- Offer English as a second language classes and/or Spanish for English speakers.
- Offer incentives for families to attend and participate in PTA activities.
- Establish a parent/community resource room, if space is available.
- Think about the PTA as an advocate for *all* children in the school.



Questions and Answers