



Integrating Youth into the PTA

Presented by:
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What Is the Workshop About?

- This workshop will help units pursue the idea of integrating PTA advocacy efforts with the efforts of a student body.
- What better way to show progress than having the very people we are fighting for fight along with us.
- This integration will lead to higher membership and a larger voice in the adult and child community.



Where Are We From?

- Membership Issues?
- Are you a PTSA?
- How involved are clubs in your schools?
- What school level are you from?

Common Misconception

- “If I’m not a PTSA, I cannot have student members.”

- FALSE

- Any PTA can include student members, in fact it is encouraged. Adding student members is an easy way to increase membership and promote PTA.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can be a member of PTA?
 - Anyone can be a member. There is no age limit on being a PTA member.
2. Can students be PTA officers?
 - While PTA encourages student participation and leadership, New York State law requires that the office of president, secretary and treasurer be filled by a person at least 18 years of age. Any vice president under the age of 18 may aid the president but may not perform any of the duties of the president.



Attention All Students

- What do students care about?
 - Getting into a good college
 - Having fun
 - Social media and their friends
 - Their overall education
 - Local issues
 - Social justice

Involving Students

- Come to meetings
- Organizing fundraisers and dances
- Membership drives with their friends
- Make a student committee
- Allow them to be active and HAVE A VOICE in the meeting.



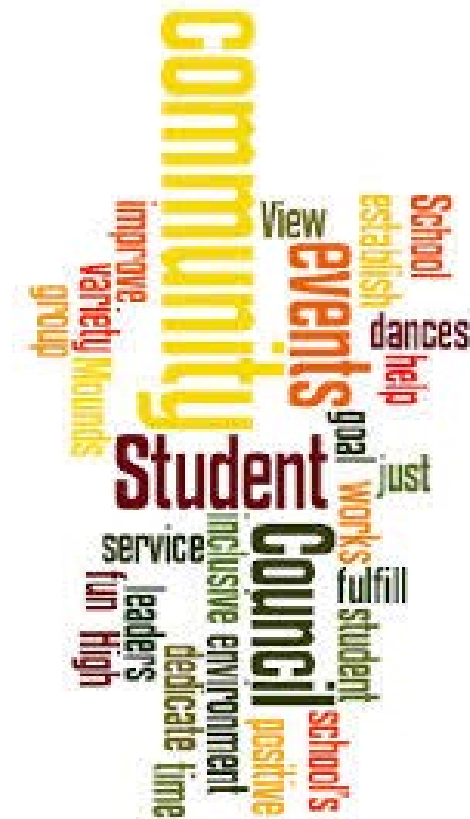
What Can Students Do In Your PTA

- Social Media Chair
- Student Committee Chair
- Student Membership Chair



Why Should Students Come To Meetings

- Having meetings at convenient times for students.
- Make them feel important and needed.
- Give them a voice.
- Offering them free food.



Student Engagement vs. Student Involvement

- “Student engagement is the product of motivation and active learning. It is a product rather than a sum because it will not occur if either element is missing.”

- Elizabeth F. Barkley,
Student Engagement
Techniques: A Handbook
for College Faculty

Student Engagement vs. Student Involvement

- "Student engagement refers to the degree of attention, curiosity, interest, optimism, and passion that students show when they are learning or being taught, which extends to the level of motivation they have to learn and progress in their education."

- The Glossary of
Education Reform by
Great Schools Partnership

Student Engagement vs. Student Involvement

- “Student involvement refers to the amount of physical and psychological energy that the student devotes to the academic experience. Thus, a highly involved student is one who, for example, devotes considerable energy to studying, spends much time on campus, participates actively in student organization, and interacts frequently with faculty members and other students.

- Alexander W. Astin, Student
Involvement: A Developmental Theory for
Higher Education

Student Engagement vs. Student Involvement

How do you
implement BOTH
student engagement
and student
involvement?

1. Be aware of your demographics
2. Make connections
3. Stay informed
4. Be receptive
5. Be innovative
6. Be different

Students and Advocacy

Let your students become an active part of the process!



1. Have a student involvement chair/student representative.
1. Allow students to chair events.
1. In order for students to be a part of our mission, they need to be a part of our movement!

The Plan

- The first step in integration is to create a position for the students.
- Have a student representative from the student council and have the rep report on news from the student body.
- Meet with school club advisors to encourage student participation on PTA meetings and events.
 - Work toward collaborative efforts!
- Nothing is more inspiring than parents and students working together!

What Are Our Plans?

- Together on a unit, council, regional , state and national level we can make the difference in a child's life. However we are not kids!
- With children and adolescents apart of our organization we can be better suited to advocate on issues that they really care about along with the issues that they don't know about.

Any questions?

- Feel free to contact me for more information
- CJ Thomson – cjthomson1994@gmail.com
- Thank you!