



Support High School Success – *The Role of the PTA Education Committee*

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Conference

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What is an Education Committee?

- Unit/Council PTA (K-12)
- Standing Committee
- Holistic Education (All school-based learning)

An education committee is a group of parents, teachers, administrators, and students that meets regularly to discuss and take action on a range of educational topics, such as homework, study skills, grading, or curriculum. This committee works hard to strengthen cooperation between teachers and families to enhance the education of all the students in a school.

Education Committee

(as per NYS PTA Resource Guide)

- Keeps abreast of issues- curriculum, student assessment or placement, funding of education program
- Works closely with school and district administration, local school board
- Provides PTA members with current information on education
- Offers programs to inform members about education issues (local, state)
- Solicits member input in order to respond to their interests and needs
 - Host a school board Candidates' Forum
 - Provide "How-to" training: parent-teacher conferences; response to report cards
 - Bring presentation of a new curriculum to a PTA meeting.
 - Invite local Regent to speak
 - Submit articles for the newsletter; encourage educators to submit

PTA Mission and Goals

Our Mission:

PTA is

- A powerful voice for all children,
- A relevant resource for families and communities, and
- A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

Our Vision:

Making every child's potential a reality by establishing the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) as the premier association for parent involvement and advocacy for all children.

PTA Purposes

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, places of worship, and throughout the community
- To raise the standards of home life
- To advocate for laws that further the education, physical and mental health, welfare, and safety of children and youth
- To promote the collaboration and engagement of families and educators in the education of children and youth
- To engage the public in united efforts to secure the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and social well-being of all children and youth
- To advocate for fiscal responsibility regarding public tax dollars in public education funding

How Can an Education Committee Advance Our Mission and Goals?

The Challenge: Lack of Communication

- **Child/Youth Advocacy**
- **Family Engagement**
- **Home-School Partnership** (regular, two-way, meaningful **communication**)
- **Whole Child Development:**
 - Critical thinking
 - Leadership
 - Advocacy

Communication → Trust → Collaboration

Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning. (Standard 2 of FSP)

Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively. (Standard 3 of FSP)

Supporting Success: EC Projects

- HS Hot Tips Sheet for parents (hotlines, emergencies)
- Mentoring Program (Junior/8th Gr. thru Senior/9th Gr.)
- College Admissions Night (“What we learned”)
parents, students, guidance, teachers
- “If I’d known then...”: Alums debrief after 1st year college
- Welcome/orientation for newcomer parents (Buddies)
- Academic progress reports
- Teacher Spotlight programs for PTSA meetings
- Student engagement/motivation survey (public affairs class)
- Class participation grades

What Does Success Look Like?

- Culture of home-school collaboration
- Greater understanding of/within school system
- Positive working relationships; good faith
- Mechanism for problem-solving and evaluation
- Clearer communication among all stakeholders
- Sounding board for change and innovation
- Teachers: support for their goals and efforts
- Parents: better support and guidance of children
- Students: leadership skill; advocates for self and others; community engagement; reflection; analysis; resume

Barriers to Success

- Old History: PTA--Faculty Relations
(the T in your PTA? Advocates or adversaries?)
- Time commitment (T burnout; P availability)
- Teacher—Principal relationships
- Student skepticism; working with mom/dad?

Forming an Education Committee

- PTA votes to establish a standing Ed Comm; defines members (P, T, S, A, other?) and mandate
- PTA officer/Comm reps inform admins, faculty reps
- PTA officer/Comm reps reach out to teachers/staff: personal/live invitation to join (whys and hows)
- Ed Comm members draft mission statement (approved by all members); share it
- Start with communication:
What would you like parents to know and understand?
What would you like teachers to know and understand?

Sample Mission Statement

- The National Congress of Parents and Teachers seeks to unite the efforts of home and school in order to provide children the best educational experience possible. Accordingly, the ABC High School PTSA has established an Education Committee to facilitate the realization of this goal. The purpose of this committee is to furnish a forum for teachers and parents to share questions, concerns, insights, and suggestions about the academic lives of ABC students. The committee can be a vehicle to enhance communication among parents, teachers, and the student body; to research and study issues of educational importance; to propose new educational initiatives to the PTA or the school administration; and to reinforce the bonds that unite all members of the ABC community.

The scope of this committee is to address not individual concerns, but substantial academic issues of concern to some number of teachers, parents, or students. Finally, this committee is dedicated to the ABC Central School District instructional principles that “all children can learn,” that all students should be active participants in their learning and aim “to achieve at the highest possible level,” and that relationships within the school community should be “based on trust, decency, and fairness.”