

5 REASONS TO

Join your district SEPTA AND YOUR SCHOOL'S PTA TOO!

What is SEPTA?

A SEPTA is a district-wide **S**pecial **E**ducation **P**arent **T**eacher **A**ssociation and is part of New York State PTA and National PTA. "SEPTA" was designed to build strong partnerships among parents, teachers, administrators, existing PTA's and the community, for the benefit of families and children receiving special education services.

Who are SEPTA members?

- Anyone that has an interest in the welfare of children with special needs
- Parents, families, teachers, school administrators, students, friends
- Membership is open to all

What if we don't have a SEPTA?

If there is no parent organization in your school, in consultation with your school principal, you will want to determine if you should be a PTA or a SEPTA (or BOTH!). If there is a SEPTA serving schools in your district, we encourage you to join! For more information reach out to:

New York State PTA Special Education Specialist
specialeducation@nyspta.org

Is it the same thing? **Absolutely not.**

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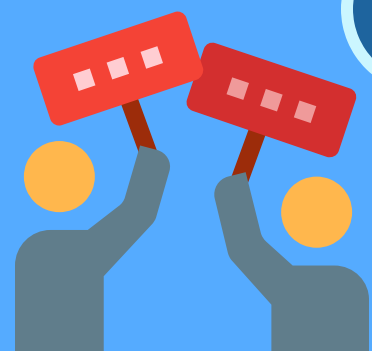


SEPTA represents your district A PTA unit represents your school

Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA) is a district wide PTA whose primary role is to provide resources and support to parents, teachers, and children who receive special education services through an IEP, 504 Plan, related support services such as resource room, counseling, speech, occupational or physical therapy, and students who are twice exceptional or gifted.

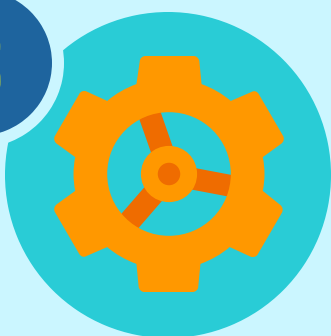
SEPTA and PTA work together

Do you have a SEPTA in your district? If so, a SEPTA executive board member would be invited to attend all local PTA executive board meetings and speak on behalf of your SEPTA.



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PTA represents all kids SEPTA promotes a greater awareness of Special Education

PTA focuses on events and information for all children within the school. SEPTA focuses on providing information about various issues that can aid parents in helping their children achieve their personal best.

A SEPTA does not take the place of a local school PTA nor any other PTA organization

All SEPTA members should join their local PTA(s). Participation in your local PTA(s) will provide general PTA and school-based programming and participation opportunities that a district SEPTA may not.



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Team up with influencers

Special Education PTAs (SEPTAs) provide an opportunity to bring together families of students who attend different schools in a district under one PTA umbrella. By joining both SEPTA and PTA you support both your school and the special needs initiative in your district.