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Utah PTA President’s Message

Dear SPECIAL AGENTS, (aka volunteers)

It’s my pleasure to serve alongside your MISSION for the 2019-2020 school year. I am thrilled to have so many SPECIAL AGENTS throughout our great state of Utah serving in PTA. Being a child advocate is very rewarding. Serving in the local schools was some of my favorite times and memories.

Utah PTA has provided for you INTELLIGENCE in the form of tools, website, handbook, bylaws, council, region, and state leaders to support your efforts. We also have social media groups you can join to ask questions and share ideas with each other.

Here is your CLASSIFIED CODE WORD for the upcoming year:

LERI
L - LISTEN
E - EMPATHY
R - RAPPORT
I - INFLUENCE

Thank you for accepting this ASSIGNMENT and making this MISSION POSSIBLE!

GOOD LUCK!

Laney Benedict
Laney Benedict, President
Utah PTA (MISSION CONTROL)

A child is like a butterfly in the wind.

Some can fly higher than others,
But each one flies the best it can.

Why compare one against the other?

Each one is Different,
Each one is Special,
Each one is Beautiful.

Alice Abrams, Olympus High School, Region 5
National PTA Reflections – 2012-2013 Outstanding Interpretation for Visual Arts
Utah PTA Facts

**History:** Utah PTA joined National PTA in 1925. Utah PTA is the largest child advocacy and volunteer association in the state. National PTA was established more than 100 years ago to address children’s issues.

**Membership:** Being the largest advocacy association in Utah, more than 80,000 individuals volunteer and participate in 628 Local and Council PTAs within the state.

**Organization:** Utah is divided into 21 geographic PTA regions, each served by a Region Director. In large districts, the Region Director works with area Councils. The Council President then works with the local school PTA President. In rural areas, two or more school districts are under one Region Director. Local PTA Presidents meet on a regular basis throughout the school year with Council Presidents/Region Directors. Presidents-elect and Principals may also be included in these meetings. Local PTAs also meet on a regular basis throughout the year in Executive Committee and Board meetings and work with administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and students.

**Affiliation:** Utah PTA is an affiliate of the National PTA. National PTA is composed of 54 state congresses and more than 20,000 local units in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the Department of Defense Schools in Europe. State PTAs are the liaison between the local PTA and National PTA, helping each to function effectively and to support and sustain the other. PTAs at the local level are valuable assets to their school communities by providing educational and parent involvement information, resources, events, and activities.

**Parental Involvement:** In 2018, Utah PTA volunteers reported 1,329,786 hours of service to Utah’s children in their local public schools. If this volunteer service were translated into monetary value, it would be worth $37,951,307.13!

**Important Information**

Utah PTA also has an exemption from sales tax from the Utah State Tax Commission. State law requires every PTA to pay sales tax on purchases under $1,000 and then request a refund. Utah PTA has established a procedure for applying for the refund. See the Financial section. Contact the Utah PTA Treasurer for more information.

Bylaws must be renewed every three years. Check the red stamp at the top right of the first page of your bylaws. This date will show if your bylaws are current or need to be renewed.

Found on the front page of your local PTA bylaws:

- Your PTA Unit ID Number needs to go on your membership remittance form and cards and Reflections entries. It is your PTA identification number, as assigned by National PTA.

- Your EIN (Employer Identification Number) is needed for all IRS filings and the PTA’s bank account. It is your IRS identification number.
### National PTA Resources

- National Standards for Family-School Partnerships
- *Our Children* e-magazine
- Back-to-School kits
- e-Learning Courses
- PTA Takes Action Alerts (Legislative)
- Member-to-Member Network (Legislative)
- PTA Parent e-Newsletter
- PTA Local Leader e-Newsletter
- Social Media (Facebook, Twitter)
- National PTA website: [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

### National and Utah PTA Programs

#### National and Utah PTA Programs

- Reflections
- Bullying: Connect for Respect
- Schools of Excellence
- Take Your Family to School Week
- Teacher Appreciation

#### Utah PTA Programs

- Battle of the Bands (PTSA)
- Ribbon Week
- Hope for Tomorrow, with NAMI Utah
- Healthy Relationships (PTSA)

#### Utah PTA Conferences and Trainings

- Advocacy Conference (October)
- PTA Day at the Capitol (February)
- Leadership Convention (May)
- PTSA Student Leadership Conference (Fall)

#### Utah PTA Awards, Grants and Scholarships

- Utah PTA Awards
- LEAP Award
- Membership Awards
- Arts Education Fund Grant
- Student Scholarships

#### Utah PTA Special Committees

- Diversity & Inclusion
- Male Engagement
- Military Families
- Special Needs
- Digital Safety
- Trust Lands
Executive committee members and Commissioners represent children’s interests on numerous different committees across the state. These groups include government task forces, state organizations, and community groups.

**Some of these groups include:**

- Governor’s Education in Excellence Commission
- Health Coalitions
- Safety Coalitions
- Trust Lands/SITLA/SITFO
- USBE (Utah State Board of Education)
- Parents Empowered
- First Lady, Jeanette Herbert’s *Uplift Utah* program
- Utah Public Education Coalition
- Intergenerational Poverty Advisory Committee
- Utah Anti-Bullying Coalition
- Action for Healthy Kids Utah

### Executive Committee

- President
- Region Director
  - Council President
  - Region & Council Financial
- Secretary
- Treasurer

### Representatives

- Administrator Vice President/Principal
- Teacher Vice President

### Directors

- Leadership
- Membership
- Public Relations / Communications

### Commissioners and Programs

- Community Involvement
  - Diversity & Inclusion
  - Male Engagement
- Education
  - Trust Lands
- Family Life
- Health
- Individual Development
  - Reflections Local Leaders Guide
  - Arts Education Fund Grant
- Safety
- Student Leadership
  - Battle of the Bands
  - PTA Day at the Capitol
  - Student Conference
Utah PTA Past Presidents

Back Row (L-R): Carmen Snow, Dawn Davies, Ilene Mecham
Front Row: Colleen Taylor, Dixie Nelson, Jeana Stockdale, JoAnn Neilson

2017-2019: Jeana Stockdale
2015-2017: Dawn Davies
2013-2015: Liz Zentner
2011-2013: Gainell Rogers
2009-2011: Ilene Mecham
2007-2009: Marilyn Simister
2005-2007: Carmen Snow
2003-2005: JoAnn Neilson
2001-2003: Susan Dayton
1999–2001: Colleen Taylor
1997–1999: Barbara Willie
1991–1993: Joyce Muhlestein
1989–1991: Pat Hales
1987–1989: Darlene Gubler
1983–1985: Donna Davies
1981–1983: Gayle Judd

1978–1981: Darlene Hutchison
1972–1974: Joan Burnside
1964–1967: Mr. Rowan C. Stutz
1961–1964: Mrs. James W. Urie III
1959–1961: Dr. Ellvert H. Himes
1958–1959: Mrs. George H. Jones
1952–1955: Mrs. Donald E. Rose
1947–1952: Mrs. Charles L. Walker
1945–1947: Mrs. Eric A. Johnson
1943–1945: Mrs. Edmund P. Evans
1938–1943: Mrs. Lee K. Nicholson
1935–1938: Mrs. Arch J. West
1931–1935: Mrs. John K. Hardy
1925–1931: Mrs. William Reid
Why be a PTA School?

Utah PTA...

... Is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in Utah with over 685 local units and councils. Utah PTA is a partnership between parents, educators, students, and individuals who want to make a difference in the life of a child. Members of Utah PTA are also affiliated with millions of members of National PTA, an association that is actively involved in promoting activities and legislation that support the nation’s public school children.

... Supports many of the National PTA programs and legislative efforts as they relate to the welfare of Utah’s public school children.

... Participates in numerous committees, coalitions, conferences, summits, and programs for children and youth.

... Holds an annual Leadership Convention to train PTA leaders across the state as well as an annual PTA Day at the Capitol and Advocacy Conference to bring important grassroots issues to the membership.

... Provides valuable parent information through leadership trainings, various handbooks, and emails. Utah PTA has programs for children and youth, including Reflections, Hope for Tomorrow, Battle of the Bands, PTA Take Your Family to School Week, Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week, and more.

... Is the backbone is the organization of diverse volunteer members who donated millions of hours to benefit the children in local public schools.

... advocates for all children in schools and districts, and by following bills that are supported by Utah PTA resolutions that originate from the grass roots—their members.

... Is the watchdog for Trust Lands money, making sure the monies keep flowing to the local schools and that all uses of the land benefit the children of Utah.

... Supports all public schools, including public charter schools.

When a school forms a PTA, it becomes a member of the largest child advocacy group in Utah and the United States, and will:

- Be under the umbrella of the Utah PTA’s 501(c)(3). They will be issued an EIN for banking purposes and IRS filings and a PTA Unit ID Number from National PTA.
- Have bylaws that govern them.
- Have only one agenda—the children.
- Have the support of Utah PTA and National PTA.
- Have researched resources and handbooks from Utah PTA.
- Have the opportunity for their children to participate in the Reflections program.
- Have the opportunity to participate in PTA Awards and any PTA programs.
- Have leadership trainings.
- Receive regular communication from council, region, and Utah PTA.
- Have a member-to-member parent information base with National PTA.
- Have a larger voice on issues that face their school—every child.one voice.
- Receive regular information about upcoming events, conferences, and legislative, education, health, and safety issues through emails and the Utah PTA website: www.utahpta.org

A Local PTA organization is a viable, involved association within every community that seeks to benefit the education, safety, and welfare of children and youth. Local businesses, organizations, school community, and community leaders work together with PTA to develop common bonds that further local values and goals that strengthen family, school, and community.
The Value of Utah PTA
Where Your $1.75 in State Dues Go

Leadership Training

- Utah PTA website - www.utahpta.org
- Utah PTA Leadership Convention
- Utah PTA Handbook for Local PTA Boards
- Training Handbooks for Leaders
- Engaging Minority Leader Training
- Field Service for Local PTAs
- Region Trainings
- Financial Training and Oversight
- National Standards for Family-School Partnerships
- Student Leadership Conference
- Social Media
- QPR training for suicide prevention

Advocacy Efforts

- Training on How to Work with Policy Makers
- Information on Current Issues Affecting Children and Families
- Member-to-Member Network
- PTA Day at the Capitol
- Advocacy Conference
- Oversight of School Trust Lands
- Training on how to work with Superintendents, Principals and Teachers
- Represent parents on coalitions with legislators, other advocacy groups, and various prevention and health groups, including the Governor’s Education Excellence Commission, and the Utah State Board of Education (USBE)

PTA Programs

- Reflections
- Battle of the Bands (PTSA)
- Schools of Excellence
- Ribbon Week
- Healthy Relationships Month
- PTA Three for Me
- PTA Goes to Work
- PTA Take Your Family to School Week
- Teacher Appreciation
- NAMI—Hope for Tomorrow
- Engaging Minority Leaders
- Access to information on other programs

Awards & Grants

- Utah PTA Awards—Outstanding Administrator, LEAP, Spirit of PTA, Advocacy, Involvement, Development, Spirit of Inclusivity
- Student Leadership Scholarships
- Arts Education Fund Grants
- Membership Awards—Back-to-School, Membership Magic, Grateful for Membership, Spirit Award, What is Your PTA Story?, XOXO Award, STARS Award, MARS Award, Super PTSA, Award of Excellence in Membership Promotion, Double Your Membership, and One Voice for Every Child Award
- Student Scholarships
The Value of National PTA
Where Your $2.25 in National Dues Go

www.PTA.org

Running Your PTA
- National PTA Resources
- National Standards for Family-School Partnerships
- One Voice Blog
- eLearning
- Local PTA Leader Kit
- Become a National Leader Kit
- Diversity & Inclusion Toolkit
- PTA Branding & Web Guidelines
- Spanish Resources
- Marketplace
- Subscribe to e-Newsletters

Advocacy
- Take Action
- Federal Legislation
- PTA's Positions
- Legislative Conference
- Advocacy Resources
- 2018 Advocacy Awards

Family Resources
- Parents' Guide to Student Success
- Family Guides
- College & Career Readiness
- Our Children's Magazine
- Health
- Safety
- Special Education Toolkit

Events
- Event Calendar
- 2018 Annual Convention & Expo
- 2018 Legislative Conference
- Convention Dates
- State Conventions & Leadership Training
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Take Your Family to School Week
- Every Child in Focus

Programs
- National PTA School of Excellence
- Reflections
- STEM + Families
- Family Reading Experience
- Connect for Respect
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Award & Grant Opportunities
What are the National Standards?

The National Standards for Family-School Partnerships are voluntary guidelines to strengthen parent and family involvement on behalf of children in schools and other programs. The six standards and their quality indicators provide PTAs, schools, and communities with the components that are needed for highly effective family-school involvement programs.

PTA leaders and all those interested in more effective family/school/community connections will find the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships to be a valuable resource and catalyst for action.

1. Welcoming All Families Into The School Community
   Families are active participants in the life of the school and feel welcomed, valued and connected to each other, to school staff and to what students are learning and doing in class.

2. Communicating Effectively
   Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way and meaningful communication about student learning.

3. Supporting Student Success
   Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students’ learning and healthy development, both at home and at school and have regular opportunities that will support their success.

4. Speaking Up For Every Child
   Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

5. Sharing Power
   Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence and create policies, practices and programs.

6. Collaborating With Community
   Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families and staff to expand learning opportunities, community services and civic participation.

Background

Our nation acknowledged the important role of parent involvement through its enactment of the 8th National Education Goal:

Every school will promote partnerships that will increase parental involvement and participation in promoting the social, emotional and academic growth of children.

Utah PTA supports this goal. The standards were designed to raise the level of expectation about how family-school involvement programs can improve student achievement and life success by engaging families in true partnership with educators and community leaders.

How Were the Standards Developed?

The standards were developed by the National PTA in collaboration with parent involvement researchers and other national leaders. They are endorsed by more than 30 professional education and family-school leaders.
involvement organizations. The standards clearly delineate those practices that have been shown to lead to success and high-quality parent involvement programs. The standards were developed to be a practical tool for meeting the threefold purpose of the national standards which is:

1. To promote meaningful parent and family participation
2. To raise awareness regarding the components of effective programs
3. To provide guidelines for schools that wish to improve their programs

**How Can My PTA Use These Standards?**

Before you begin to develop new or improve on existing family-school involvement programs, form a committee or action team including all of the stakeholders—parents, teachers, administrators, support staff, and community leaders. Be sure everyone involved understands the group’s purpose: to recognize the importance of parent and family involvement, review the standards, look broadly at current programs or practices at your school and make recommendations about what steps are needed to initiate positive change.

Developing genuine collaboration is critical. The views of all stakeholders should be considered and valued and no one group should control the outcomes. Establishing trust and a true partnership will take time, but the extra effort is well worth the lasting benefits that can be gained. Meaningful change requires thoughtful, incremental steps. Laying a solid foundation can make all the difference in the final outcomes and success of your programs.

**Creating an Action Plan**

When parents, educators and community leaders make parent involvement a mutual goal, they can begin to work together as a team to create an action plan for reaching and maintaining the standards. Give each step adequate attention to ensure the overall effectiveness of your plan. Set realistic and achievable goals. Remember: Success Breeds Success. Accomplishing obtainable goals and then setting additional ones works better than reaching too high and trying to achieve too much in the beginning.

When implementing your action plan, consider local needs, priorities and the demographics of your school and community. Involve those who will be instrumental in carrying out the plan to help develop the steps or procedures to implement it. This uses a bottom-up rather than top-down team approach which allows for greater support and cooperation from everyone involved.

Family involvement should not be seen as an “add-on” program feature, but rather as an essential component in the ongoing goal of improved student success. In order to be most effective, the family-school involvement plan should be fully integrated into the overall school or program improvement process.

**Making Progress**

Once the groundwork is laid and all stakeholders understand the value of the partnership, then redefining, reshaping and “scaling up” planned activities and goals maintains the momentum of program change. As noted, family involvement is a process, not merely a series of “one shot” activities or plans carried out and then retired. It is crucial that the standards be implemented in an ongoing pattern of planning, action and evaluation on a consistent basis. Each measurable success fosters a pattern of continual, meaningful partnership.
# Key Points To Remember

- **Positive Approach**: Take a positive approach and build on the commendable practices that already exist in your school or programs. Accommodate diverse populations. Consider the needs of all families and plan meetings and structure activities to best involve everyone.

- **Involve All**: Involve all the stakeholders—parents, teachers, administrators, support staff and community members. Enlist the full participation of those who will implement the program or activity to help design the action plan prior to launching the program.

- **Provide Training**: Involve school or program support staff, as well as educators and administrators, in the process. Provide program training for parents, staff and administrators as needed to implement the action plan.

- **Offer Assistance**: Offer PTA assistance. Encourage your PTA members to work closely with the school or program administrators to be an effective team model for implementing the action plan and facilitating family-school involvement.

- **Reinforce**: Reinforce the truth that family and community involvement is more than fundraising or collecting donations for projects and activities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>504</td>
<td>A plan for how children will have access at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>Anti-Bullying Coalition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>ACT Aspire (9th-10th grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADD</td>
<td>Attention Deficit Disorder</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADHD</td>
<td>Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFT</td>
<td>American Federation of Teachers</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFR</td>
<td>Annual Financial Reconciliation</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASTL</td>
<td>Advocates For School Trust Lands</td>
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<tr>
<td>AYP</td>
<td>Adequate Yearly Progress</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAP</td>
<td>Community Action Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCSS</td>
<td>Common Core State Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHADD</td>
<td>Children and Adults With Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHIP</td>
<td>Children's Health Insurance Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP</td>
<td>Council President</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMAC</td>
<td>Coalition Minority Association Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>CUTS</td>
<td>Coalition for Utah Traffic Safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>DARE</td>
<td>Drug Awareness Resistance Education</td>
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<td>DCFS</td>
<td>Division of Child and Family Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOE</td>
<td>Department of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>DWS</td>
<td>Department of Work Force Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIN</td>
<td>Employer Identification Number</td>
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<tr>
<td>EML</td>
<td>Engaging Minority Leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESEA</td>
<td>Elementary Secondary Education Act</td>
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<td>ELL</td>
<td>English Language Learner</td>
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<td>ESSA</td>
<td>Every Student Succeeds Act</td>
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<td>FAS/FAE</td>
<td>Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effects</td>
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<td>FSP</td>
<td>Family-School Partnerships</td>
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<tr>
<td>GED</td>
<td>Graduation Equivalency Diploma</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICAC</td>
<td>Interagency Crimes Against Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>IEP</td>
<td>Individualized Education Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>IGP</td>
<td>Intergenerational Poverty</td>
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<td>IRS</td>
<td>Internal Revenue Service</td>
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<td>LAC</td>
<td>Legislative Advocacy Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEAP</td>
<td>Leadership, Excelence, And Partnershiping</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEA</td>
<td>Local Education Agency, School District or Charter School</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEP</td>
<td>Limited English Proficiency</td>
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<td>LIC</td>
<td>Local Interagency Council</td>
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<td>MADD</td>
<td>Mothers Against Drunk Driving</td>
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<td>NAEP</td>
<td>National Assessment of Educational Progress</td>
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<td>NAMI</td>
<td>National Alliance on Mental Illness</td>
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<td>NEA</td>
<td>National Education Association</td>
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<td>National Endowment for the Arts</td>
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<td>NSBA</td>
<td>National School Boards Association</td>
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<td>PCAU</td>
<td>Prevent Child Abuse Utah</td>
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<td>Prevention Dimensions</td>
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<td>Public Relations</td>
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<td>PTA</td>
<td>Parent-Teacher Association</td>
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<td>PTSA</td>
<td>Parent-Teacher-Student Association</td>
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<td>RD</td>
<td>Region Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>RISE</td>
<td>Readiness, Improvement, Success, Empowerment</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAFE</td>
<td>Helpline App</td>
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<td>UTAH</td>
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<td>SCC</td>
<td>School Community Council</td>
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<td>SAP</td>
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<td>SAR</td>
<td>Students at Risk</td>
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<td>SEA</td>
<td>State Education Agency</td>
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<td>SEOP</td>
<td>Student Education Occupation Plan</td>
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<td>SEP</td>
<td>Student Education Plan</td>
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<td>SSARAC</td>
<td>State Students at Risk Advisory Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>TANF</td>
<td>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families</td>
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<td>UAESP</td>
<td>Utah Association of Elementary School Principals</td>
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<td>UASCD</td>
<td>Utah Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development</td>
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<td>UASSP</td>
<td>Utah Association of Secondary School Principals</td>
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<td>UCCJJ</td>
<td>Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice</td>
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<td>UDOH</td>
<td>Utah Department of Health</td>
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<td>Utah Highway Safety</td>
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<td>Utah Home Schools Association</td>
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<td>UPEC</td>
<td>Utah Public Education Coalition</td>
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<td>USBA</td>
<td>Utah School Boards Association</td>
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<td>Utah State Board of Education</td>
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<td>USDE</td>
<td>United States Department of Education</td>
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<td>Utah School Superintendents Association</td>
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<td>Utahns for Public Schools</td>
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<td>WATCH</td>
<td>Dads of Great Students</td>
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<td>WPU</td>
<td>Weighted Pupil Unit</td>
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<td>Weighted Pupil Unit</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Children Learn What They Live

If children live with...

criticism
they learn to condemn

hostility
they learn to fight

ridicule
they learn to be shy

shame
they learn to feel guilty

Tolerance
they learn to be patient

Encouragement
they learn confidence

Praise
they learn to appreciate

Fairness
they learn justice

Security
they learn to have faith

Approval
they learn to like themselves

Acceptance and
Friendship
they learn to find love in the world