



## LET'S PUT THE 'T' IN PTA!

Why do we have a 'T' in PTA? Teachers and staff are crucial partners in our children's success and in fulfilling our mission of helping every child achieve their potential. Encouraging teachers and staff to join PTA can create a collaborative partnership between home and school. This should be one of the focuses of your PTA/PTSA's Membership campaign.

### WHY DON'T TEACHERS AND STAFF JOIN PTA?

- ♦ **They forget to join.** The beginning of the school year is so busy for teachers and many just forget to join. You may need to kindly give them a few reminders.
- ♦ **They don't understand that they can join.** Some teachers misunderstand that the PTA is for parents not teachers. Or they think that since they don't have children they can't join. They may need some education to dispel these misbeliefs.
- ♦ **They don't understand the importance of PTA.** Some teachers don't understand the importance and mission of PTA to "help every child achieve their potential". You may need to provide education for them about the mission and advocacy of the PTA and how it impacts their career.

### HERE ARE SOME IDEAS FOR GETTING TEACHERS TO JOIN:

- ♦ **Enlist the support of your principal.** A principal's encouragement and support to join can go a long way. Your principal should lead by example and according to your bylaws they should be a current member of a PTA to serve on your board.
- ♦ **Introduce your PTA.** Ask your principal if you can attend a portion of the first faculty meeting of the school year to introduce your PTA and pass out membership forms.
- ♦ **Feed them.** Arrange to provide a breakfast for staff prior to the start of the school year. Use this breakfast as an opportunity to talk to teachers about the value and importance of joining the PTA.

- ♦ **Inform them.** Include PTA materials in information packets given to teachers and staff at the start of each school year. Include information that shows how your PTA is working to support teachers like teacher grants, organizing class parties, room reps, parent teacher conference dinners, etc.
- ♦ **Give personal invitations** asking teachers and staff to join. Make it easier by pre-filling out the membership form with their names, email addresses, and school contact information (some teachers worry about giving out their personal information to parents so a school contact information will be fine).
- ♦ **Give prizes.** Award teachers and staff in their own separate membership drive. For example: when the staff reaches a certain percentage goal they ALL get a small reward (make sure you include a membership flyer with the rewards of the teachers who have not yet joined) - 50% free soda, 75% desserts, 100% free lunch.
- ♦ **Give thank yous.** Hand out a bright thank you card when a majority of teachers join and put it in the teacher boxes. Other teachers who haven't joined will notice they didn't get one and this might be a good reminder for them.
- ♦ **Make it public.** Request a bulletin board or showcase at your school to display current information about PTA activities. Maybe even include a poster in the faculty room where you can write names of teachers when they join. This can also have membership fliers ready for teachers to take.
- ♦ **Back to School Night.** With permission of your principal, use back-to-school nights as an opportunity to speak with both teachers and parents about the importance of supporting PTA. Prepare a short presentation.
- ♦ **Always remember it can't hurt to ask in any kind and nonthreatening ways.**

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