

Putting the T in PTA

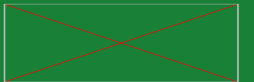
Rachel Peterson

Incoming Utah PTA Teacher Representative



Which best describes your current experience with the 'T' in PTA?

 The Slido app must be installed on every computer you're presenting from

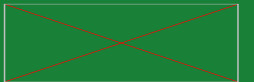




- Wife and mum
- 3rd soon to 2nd Grade Teacher
- Woods Cross PTA member
- Lover of books
- **YOUR** incoming State PTA Teacher Representative

What is one specific thing you want to leave this session knowing or being able to do related to the 'T' in PTA?

 The Slido app must be installed on every computer you're presenting from



Why the 'T' in PTA?

“No school can work well for children if parents and teachers do not act in partnership on behalf of the children's best interests.”

-Dorothy H. Cohen(educator and child development expert)

“School, family, and community partnerships are essential for student success.”

-Joyce Epstein (family–school partnerships expert)

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.”

-Henry Ford (industrialist)

Agenda

1. Why don't teachers join the PTA?
2. Role of Teacher VP on your PTA Board
3. Tips for improving parent teacher relationships
4. Teacher appreciation ideas
5. Questions, suggestions, or ideas to help others in their PTA

Why don't teachers and staff join?

- They forget to join

The beginning of the school year is one of the busiest times of years for teachers. Many just simply forget to join.

- They don't know or understand that they can join!

Some teachers misunderstand that the PTA is for parents, not teachers. They might think if they don't have children at the school they can't join. Many new teachers to the profession haven't heard about PTA and don't know they can join.

- 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." They don't know that Utah PTA advocates for them at the capital every year. You may need to provide education for them about the mission and advocacy of the PTA and how it impacts them.

Shift the Narrative

Join PTA

- Feels like one more commitment
- Unclear expectations
- Can feel like extra work

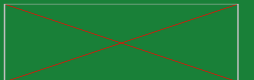
Support PTA by becoming a member

- Simple and flexible
- No Added obligations
- A way to be part of the partnership

Role of the Teacher VP / Teacher Representative

- Current teacher at your school
- PTA member
- Elected through the nominating process
- Serves on the PTA board
- Counts toward a quorum
- Attends board meetings when possible
- Acts as liaison between staff and PTA
- Brings teacher voice and perspective

How do you show appreciation to teachers or staff? (use short phrases)



Simple & Meaningful Ways to Show Appreciation

- Include ALL staff (not just classroom teachers)
- Cards or notes from students
- Flood their inbox with positive emails from parents
- Can happen year-round—not just May
- Favorite treats
- Prize drawings with donated prizes
- Spruce up the faculty room or teacher bathrooms
- Let parents help. You might even find some new volunteers this way.

PTA resources

National PTA resources



Why Teachers Need PTA

[Home](#) / [About PTA](#) / [Member Benefits](#) / [Why Teachers Need PTA](#)

Like 18

Share

Post

How Can PTA Help Teachers

Membership in PTA is not limited to just parents. Teachers play a vital role in a child's education and PTA, but they are often overlooked. **Programs** and **events** like **Teacher Appreciation Week** are just one of the ways PTA celebrates and supports teachers. Listed below are resources specifically designed to recruit and support teachers.

[Join PTA Today!](#) →



PTA Resources Teachers Should Know

Click to learn more about the below resources developed and updated by experts

National
PTA
everychild.onevoice®

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Class and Beyond

- PTA Multicultural Reference Guide

Advocacy Resources

- Action Alerts on Emerging Issues
- National PTA's Positions on Issues Impacting Children, Families and Schools

Relationships with Key Education Leaders

- Federal agencies including U.S. Departments of Education, Agriculture and Health and Human Services
- National organizations, national teachers' unions, superintendents, school principals and organizations that support teachers and National PTA's commitment to school communities



Educational, Enriching and Fun PTA Programs

- Reflections Art Program
- School of Excellence
- STEM + Families
- PTA Connected
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Family Reading Experience

Transformative Family Engagement

- Family Engagement Solutions
- National Standards for Family-School Partnerships
- Notes from the Backpack: A National PTA Podcast

Leadership Training and Member Benefits

- Thrive: National PTA's community for online learning
- Events
- National PTA's e-Newsletters
- Our Children Online Magazine
- Opportunities for Awards and Funding

Teachers belong in PTA. Support PTA with your membership and join at [PTA.org/Join](https://pta.org/join).

  = **Student Success** 

Teachers + Families

Utah  2026
PTA LEADERSHIP CONVENTION
together we lead 



Our PTA Amplifies Your Voice

~~Teachers~~ YOU Belong in PTA!
Why Join Our PTA? Because Our PTA Amplifies Your Voice.

Join our PTA to...

- Have a voice in decisions that affect you and your school community.
- Find a community of advocates who share your interests and concerns.
- Create positive change in our school, community and nation.

The teacher voice has been a critical part of every milestone in advocating for our children since PTA's founding over 127 years ago.

Teachers have unique knowledge and expertise that provide vital insight into the issues affecting families and school communities that our PTA is fighting for.

Why the teacher voice in PTA matters...

- The strength of PTA's advocacy is in the power of families and educators working together for the benefit of all children.

PTA works to secure funding for public education to ensure schools and educators have the proper resources needed to help children learn, grow and succeed.

Support PTA by joining today at pta.org/Join.



Our PTA Creates Connections

~~Teachers~~ YOU Belong in PTA!
Why Join Our PTA? Because Our PTA Creates Connections.

Join our PTA to...

- Build powerful relationships.
- Access evidence-based resources that support family-school partnerships.
- Become a part of the network of PTAs that support the whole child.

In creating connections for teachers, PTA...

- Strengthens the critical partnership between educators and caregivers to promote students' development.
- Empowers families and educators to work together in support of academic success.
- Brings school communities together with the shared goal of helping every child reach their full potential.

Support the "T" in "PTA" by joining today at pta.org/Join.



Our PTA Supports Your Students

~~Teachers~~ YOU Belong in PTA!
Why Join Our PTA? Because Our PTA Supports Your Students.

Join our PTA to...

- Get resources that support your students' growth at school and at home.
- Access resources to support students' and families' mental, social and emotional health.
- Get tips and resources to promote meaningful family engagement and support.

PTA supports the success of the whole school community, including teachers, with enriching, educational and fun programs.



Invest in PTA by joining today at pta.org/Join.





Current Utah PTA
Teacher Representative

Christina Van Dam
christina@utahpta.org
801-261-3100

Questions? Contact her until
June 30th!

- Questions?
- Comments?
- Suggestions?
- Ideas to help others in the PTA/PTSA Journey?

Connect with us on social media



FACEBOOK

- Utah PTA
- Utah PTA Advocacy
- Utah PTA Super Secondary
- Utah PTA Excellent Elementary
- Utah PTA Treasurers
- Utah PTA Reflections
- Utah School Community Councils
- Utah PTA Teachers
- Utah PTA Battle of the Bands

Connect with us on social media

INSTAGRAM - @UtahPTA



X - @UtahPTAOneVoice



PINTEREST - Utah PTA



YOUTUBE - Utah PTA One Voice



UTAH PTA SPONSORS

