

# WELCOME!

We will begin soon...



1925 **Utah**  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup> 2025



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# The Power of Partnership: PTA's Family Engagement Standards in Action

Goals of this session:

1. Discover meaningful family-school partnerships that:
  - a. boost student success
  - b. strengthen your school community
  - c. empower parents as advocates

Presenters:

- Julie Cluff - Utah PTA 2025-27 President
- Karen Conder - Utah PTA Special Needs Chair



# What are the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships?

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 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:

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



# Standard One: Welcome All Families

The school treats families as valued partners in their child's education and facilitates a sense of belonging in the school community.

- Inclusion
  - As a School - Do parents and families feel welcome at school or school events?
  - As a PTA - Is your PTA meeting welcoming to single parents, young parents, working parents, parents with small children?
- Checking for understanding
  - Ask for regular feedback from parents, teachers and community
  - Make sure your messaging is clear and they know what you mean
- Make sure people know how to find you and who to contact



# Standard Two: Communicate Effectively

The school supports staff to engage in proactive, timely, and two-way communication so that all families can easily understand and contribute to their child's educational experience.

- Clear contact information for meetings and events
  - Does your community know what PTA is in general and what your PTA does for them?
  - Do you communicate with the whole community, PTA meetings and how to contact PTA board members if someone has a question?
- Use multiple avenues of communication
  - Each generation uses a different form of communication so we need to use all of them to reach the biggest audience
    - Email, Text, Group Chats, Social Media, good old fashioned face to face and paper



# Standard Five: Share Power

The school partners with families in decisions that affect children and families and together—and as a team, inform, influence and create policies, practices and programs.

- PTA Board reflects community
- Who is the right contact when a problem arises - be a partner with the teacher
  - Start Locally
    - Teacher > Vice Principal > Principal > District, School Board Member > State School Board Member
- Teach Parents importance of positive interactions with school employees
- Advocacy Work at local level



# Standard Six: Collaborate with Community

The school collaborates with community organizations and members to connect students, families and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services and civic participation.

- Community Resources available
  - Utah Parent Center
  - 211 toolkit
  - USBE Parent Portal
- Don't be afraid to ask businesses to support your PTA



# Standard Three: Support Student Success

The school builds the capacity of families and educators to continuously collaborate to support students' academic, social and emotional learning

- Success looks different for different students
- Advocate in a positive way to foster partnership and improve future outcomes



# Standard Four: Support Student Success and Speak Up for Every Child

The school affirms family and student expertise and advocacy so that all students are treated fairly and have access to relationships and opportunities that will support their success.

- Learning to advocate for your children, you are really advocating for other children as well
- What you advocate for today, will have an impact on tomorrow's children



# Wrap Up

“There could not be a more urgent time for families and schools to work together to support our students’ success academically, socially and emotionally, and promote learning environments where students feel safe, supported and ready to learn.”

— Anna King, National PTA President 2020-2022



# Wrap Up

There's a role for everyone

- **School board members** can set the vision and imagine what effective family-school partnerships should look like in your community.
- **State education agency (USBE)** and district officials can create policies and practices. Bring the standards to life in schools.
- **Principals** can set expectations and disseminate tools, templates and resources. Support educators in fostering meaningful relationships with families.
- **Educators** can build bridges between children's home lives and school lives. Connect families to school life and embrace the skills and experiences students' home lives produce.
- **Parent leaders** can use the standards to collaborate and advocate for change. Push the community for impactful implementation of the standards.



# Moving Forward

Most here today are PTA leaders and Parents

- What can you do to build positive family engagement practices in your school community?
- How can the standards help in your advocacy work?
- How can the standards help improve student success outcomes?
- What is one thing you can take from today and make an action plan to put in place in your advocacy work?



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# Questions

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