

Outstanding Superintendent and Principal Parent/Family Involvement Award

The Connecticut PTSA would like to help you to recognize a superintendent or a principal that demonstrates the importance of parent involvement. *

Research shows that **family involvement** promotes student success. Students with involved parents are more likely to:

- Earn higher grades and pass their classes,
- Attend school regularly and have better social skills,
- Go on to postsecondary education.

When families, schools, and communities work together:

- Student achievement improves,
- Teacher morale rises,
- Communication increases,
- Family, school, and community connections multiply.

Please send us a letter stating why your superintendent or principal meets the following criteria:

Welcoming All Families into the School Community

- When families walk into the school building they should feel they belong.
- Can families develop personal relationships with teachers and staff?
- Is the atmosphere family-friendly for everyone?
- Are there many ways to volunteer even for parents who may be working two jobs or who don't speak English or have a car?

Build a respectful, inclusive school community:

School policies and programs should reflect and respect the diversity of the families in the community.

- Does the school staff work with families to identify and address barriers to involvement (such as differences of race, education, and culture)?
- Are events open to the whole family and offered at convenient times and places?

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.

Strengthen the family's voice in shared decision making: Families must be full partners in making decisions on issues affecting their children both at school and within the community.

- Do families have a vote when decisions that touch their children are being made?
- What governance exists to discuss issues of equity, such as which children are eligible for the gifted program?

Build families' social and political connections:

- Every school should have a broad-based parent organization that offers families and school staff regular opportunities to discuss concerns with each other and with school leaders, public officials, and community leaders.
- In what ways do the school and PTA/parent group connect families to local officials?
- How do parties make sure the parent organization truly represents all families in both membership and its leadership?

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 to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

Share information about student progress. Families should be informed of how their children are doing in school, as well as how the entire school is progressing. Questions that this standard addresses include:

- Do parents and teachers communicate about student progress?
- Do parents learn what good work looks like for their child's age and grade?
- Does the school use test results to inform parents which student skills need strengthening?

Support learning by engaging families. Families should be active participants in their children's learning at home and at school.

- Are families invited to observe their children's classrooms?
- How do schools help families strengthen learning at home?
- What after-school learning opportunities are there?

Communicating Effectively

Families and school staff engages in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.

Many ways that schools deliver information, such as handouts, newsletters, handbooks, and websites, do not provide an easy and routine way for families to respond. Even PTA/parent group meetings are often seen by school leaders merely as a way to get the message out to families. The most effective way to build a real partnership is to create regular opportunities for open, honest dialogue.

Share information between school and families. All families should feel that the school keeps them informed on important issues and that it is easy to communicate with teachers, the principal, and other staff. Creating a perception that a dominant group of parents is in the know while everyone else is in the dark reduces trust and stifles the free flow of ideas.

- Does your school offer many different ways to communicate every day?
- Does the school or PTA survey families at least once a year to find out what's on their minds?
- Are the principal and other school administrators easily accessible to any parent?
- Do the school and PTA/parent group make it easy for parents and families to build connections and communicate with each other?

Candidate must be a PTA member.

All applications for these awards must be to CT PTSA office no later than March 1st.

PTA Presidents will be notified if your principal or superintendent is the winner of either award.

Please include a cover letter stating the following:

Name of Person being nominated for either award: _____

Title of Person named above: _____

Name of PTA the Nominating person belongs to: _____

Name of PTA President: _____

Name of PTA: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

*Please attach us your letter stating why your superintendent
or principal meets the criteria for either award:*

Questions?

Contact CT PTSA

203-281-6617

or email us at

connecticut.pta@snet.net