



Connect For Respect: A Planning Tool for PTAs to Host a Conversation on Bullying in your Community

In March 2011, National PTA® launched an initiative to encourage PTAs across the country to lead conversations in their school communities about bullying, how it is affecting their communities, and to develop solutions that they can implement collaboratively together. Below is a link to tools and resources that PTAs can use to plan their *Connect for Respect* events. Link: www.pta.org/bullying.asp



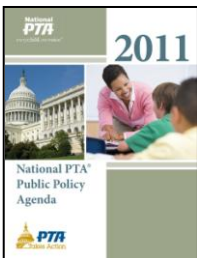
Parents' Guide to Student Success

The *Parents' Guide to Student Success* (available in English and Spanish) was developed in response to the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics that more than 40 states have adopted. Created by teachers, parents, education experts, and others from across the country, the standards provide clear, consistent expectations for what students should be learning at each grade in order to be prepared for college and career. National PTA® created the guides for grades K-8 and two for grades 9-12 (one for English language arts/literacy and one for mathematics). Link: www.pta.org/4446.htm



Policy Issue Brief – Seeing is Believing: Promising Practices for How School Districts Promote Family Engagement

There is widespread consensus that family engagement is a critical ingredient for children's school success "from cradle to career." Research suggests that family engagement promotes a range of benefits for students, including improved school readiness, higher student achievement, better social skills and behavior, and increased likelihood of high school graduation. Policymakers, practitioners, and researchers also recognize family engagement as a critical intervention strategy that maximizes return on other investments in education. Early childhood education programs that have demonstrated significant short- and long-term benefits for children all have intensive family involvement components. Furthermore, investing in family engagement can be cost effective. For example, schools would have to spend \$1,000 more per pupil to reap the same gains in student achievement that an involved parent brings. Link: www.pta.org/3464.htm



2011 National PTA Federal Public Policy Agenda

Each year National PTA publishes a public policy agenda that outlines policy priorities and recommendations for Congress. The priorities are selected based on the following criteria: timeliness of issue (that are being considered before Congress and the Administration), opportunities for National PTA to provide leadership and expertise to Congress, alignment to National PTA's mission and resolutions, and ability to achieve a meaningful policy change that will produce positive results for children and their families. The 2011 Public Policy Agenda focuses on two key priorities: Family Engagement in Education and Opportunity and Equity for All Children. Link: www.pta.org/public_policy_agenda.asp



Urban Family Engagement Initiative

National PTA recognizes that different modalities of parent involvement must be developed to be inclusive of all parents. These new strategies will be locally-driven and will mobilize volunteer leaders to address needs important to each community. In August 2009, National PTA launched a three year effort to: Raise awareness and increase the usage of parent involvement materials and resources; serve as a catalyst for mobilizing urban parents, caregivers, community stakeholders and school administrators to discuss and alleviate the barriers and issues that prevent urban parents and caregivers from being more engaged and involved with student success; and Train parents and caregivers to effectively communicate and collaborate with others to advance the educational achievement of all children, while mentoring other parents and caregivers to do the same. Link: www.pta.org/3545.htm