

How Can Teachers Play a Role in PTA:

Separating Fact from Fiction

MYTHS VS TRUTHS

Teachers Edition

Myth: Only parents can join PTA.

Truth: PTA is not just for parents. The “T” in PTA stands for teachers and represents all educators, administrators and school support staff.

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Myth: Teachers who join PTA are expected to volunteer and attend meetings.

Truth: Like all PTA members, volunteering and attending meetings is not a requirement. There’s no wrong way to PTA and we realize schedules don’t always align with PTA activities.

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Myth: Teachers are not interested in PTA involvement.

Truth: Many teachers value PTA support and collaboration. They appreciate opportunities to connect with parents and the community to advocate for students’ needs and enhance the school environment.

2

Myth: PTA doesn’t provide support for teachers.

Truth: PTA advocates for the entire school community, including teachers. National PTA works to secure adequate funding for public education to ensure schools have the proper resources needed to help children learn, grow and succeed.

5

Myth: PTA does not partner with teacher organizations in its work.

Truth: National PTA partners with multiple federal agencies and educational stakeholders to advocate for policies that benefit both students and teachers.

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Myth: When teachers join PTA, their membership only gives them access to local PTA benefits.

Truth: When anyone joins a local PTA, they automatically become members of their state PTA and National PTA—including teachers.

3

Myth: PTA leaders empower parents to support student success on their own.

Truth: PTAs foster collaborative partnerships between families and teachers. By working together through advocacy, programs, activities, meetings and events, PTAs create opportunities for meaningful engagement. Teachers’ expertise and input are essential in shaping effective PTA initiatives that benefit students and their families.

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Myth: Teachers believe PTA is only about fundraising.

Truth: While fundraising is an aspect of PTA, it’s not the only focus. PTA also plays a crucial role in advocacy, community building and providing support for students and teachers.

4

Myth: Teachers don’t need to support PTA’s advocacy work.

Truth: The teacher voice is essential to our mission. PTA has an over 127-year legacy of advocacy, working side-by-side with parents, teachers and community leaders to take action on the issues facing children, families and school communities.

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Myth: Teachers can’t serve on a PTA board.

Truth: All members—including teachers—can run for and be elected to a PTA board. (Check your school district rules.)

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