

PTA STANDARDS

PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

PTA Standard #1 – Welcoming All Families Into The School Community

Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class

Goal 1: Create a welcoming climate

Goal 2: Build a respectful, inclusive school community

Suggested action steps:

- Have an “ambassador” or resource parent for different ethnicity or culture at every school.
- Hold a training session for parents to run meetings to include all parents.
- Establish a school bulletin board so that parents can get council and school information if needed.

PTA Standard #2 – Communicating Effectively

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

Goal 1: Sharing information between school and families

Suggested action steps:

- Somehow entice parents to come to first meeting. Need a hook to get them there so that the first meeting can cater to the particular school's concern.
- Establish and communicate to families the expectation that teacher should respond to email communication within 48 hours (per Rima Addiego.)

PTA Standard #3 – 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.

Goal 1: Sharing Information About Student Progress

Are families kept fully informed of how their children are doing in school, as well as

how the entire school is progressing?

Goal 2: Supporting Learning by Engaging Families

Do families have opportunities to learn how to be active participants in their children's learning at home and at school?

Suggested action steps:

-District should establish a required time for teachers to use and update power school. Currently there are complaints about the infrequency with which the grades are communicated.

-Open dialogue regarding what the parents expect to hear from teachers and how often. What parents should get from parent teacher conference and how to maximize these efforts.

-DPC should communicate to superintendent /administrators regarding what are expected from conferences and the importance of them to parents

-Institute annual surveys –or mini-surveys more often - for parents regarding their concerns, etc.

PTA Standard #4 – Speaking Up For Every Child

Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

Goal 1: Understanding How the System Works

Do parents know how the school and district operate, and how to raise questions or concerns about school or district programs and policies?

Goal 2: Empowering Families to Support Their Own and Other Children's Success in School

Are parents equipped and prepared to monitor student's progress and guide them toward their goals of post-graduation activity (college/career)?

Suggested actions steps:

- Provide list of potential district wide committees in which parents could participate.

- As the district addresses closing the achievement gap, ensure that differentiated learning strategies do not limit high performing students.

- Have speaker for DPC regarding gifted and talented opportunities to inform parents.

PTA Standard #5 – 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.

Goal 1: Strengthening the Family's Voice in Shared Decision Making

Are families full partners in making decisions on issues affecting their children, both at school and within the local community?

Suggested action steps:

- Ensure that each building has a school improvement committee; have at least one parent on that committee

PTA Standard #6 – Collaborating with Community

Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

Goal 1: Connecting the School with Community Resources

Do parents and school leaders work closely with neighborhood associations, government agencies, businesses and institutions of higher education to strengthen the school?

Suggested action steps:

-Consider merging parent councils of Whitehills and Glencairn (Linda Wycher-Caldwell, Pres. of Glencairn) to get more parent participation and address needs of that population.

-Provide publicity support for schools – either through DPC or individually through each parent council.

