

## Types of PTAs

A Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) can be formed by parents and educators in any school, in a preschool or day care center, or on a communitywide basis. Most PTAs are classified as tax-exempt 501(c)(3) public charities under the Internal Revenue Code and are accountable to the parents, students, teachers, and school community it serves. The structure of a PTA is defined in its bylaws.

There are four levels of PTA; *local*, *council*, *state*, and *national*. Members at every level are automatically members of the National PTA.

### PTA

A local *PTA* unit is most often organized and formed in a school, but may be formed by any group that supports the mission and purposes of the PTA. Membership in the local unit is open to parents, teachers, and the community. Local PTA units conduct programs and activities to meet the needs of children and youth and to help involve parents in the lives of their children.

### PTSA

A *Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA)* is a local PTA unit that permits student members. Students may become members of a local PTA unit, but their rights and responsibilities are limited to the provisions specified in the bylaws of the local and state PTA. *PTSA*s are generally found in middle schools, junior highs, and high schools.

### PTA Council

A *PTA Council* (sometimes called a *City PTA*) is a geographic grouping of local PTA/PTSA units that have gathered together to pool resources, share activities and information, and to coordinate efforts of the local PTA/PTSA units. A *PTA Council* is organized under the authority of the Iowa PTA and has its own set of bylaws and officers. *PTA Councils* are generally found in metropolitan areas and are a great resource for local units. In Iowa, the president of each *PTA Council* serves as a member of the Iowa PTA Board of Managers.

### State PTA

The *state PTA* serves as a liaison between local PTA/PTSA units and the National PTA. The state PTA provides support and information to local PTA/PTSA units, promotes membership in PTA, conducts workshops and training sessions, and helps communities develop parent involvement plans. There are 54 state PTAs in the National PTA.

### National PTA

The headquarters office of the *National PTA* is located in Chicago, Illinois. It also maintains an office in Washington, DC, to keep track of legislative issues and to collaborate with other national child-related organizations. The National PTA provides leadership, programs, support, and resources to its members worldwide. It is governed by elected officers from around the world and at least one member of every state PTA serves on the National Council of States (NCS).