

## What PTA Does

PTA is a non-profit, non-partisan national organization. It works on behalf of its members to help unite parents, teachers, and the community for the common good of ALL children. It provides state and national information, influence, and recognition to help members advocate for the health, education, and safety of all children and youth. Working together, members are able to create a healthy, nurturing environment to help improve the lives of all children and youth.

PTA membership provides:

### Partnerships

- Local PTAs provide parents, teachers, and community members the opportunity to work together to improve the lives of children and youth through programs that address health, education, and social concerns.
- Local, state, and National PTAs cooperate with other child and youth-oriented organizations to combine resources in addressing child-related issues.

### Leadership Development

- PTA is committed to developing leaders who can carry out the *Missions and Purposes* of the PTA.
- PTA prepares members to advocate for children before government entities, organize and conduct programs, work with the media, and encourage parent and community involvement by providing training and information through workshops, videos, and written materials.
- The Iowa PTA provides leadership training workshops at the Fall Leadership Retreat, at the spring convention, and for Council PTAs.

### Legislative Influence

- Members have clout and a powerful voice in government because of PTA's large membership of more than 6 million nationwide.
- National PTA's Washington, DC, office provides information regarding federal issues and advocacy training to all PTAs.
- Members can get information about the PTA perspective on current federal legislation by calling National PTA's toll-free legislative hotline (888) 4-ALL-KDS (425-5537).
- Members can get the latest information on legislative activity by subscribing to the weekly e-newsletter *This Week in Washington*.
- National PTA's website, [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org), contains legislative news and alerts as well as background information on key issues.
- The Iowa PTA provides information concerning state legislative issues to its members through letters to unit presidents and a legislative email network.

### State and National Resources

- PTAs across the country have access to a wealth of information and resource materials from the state and National PTA covering all facets of a child's life. This information is available in printed format and on the National PTA's website at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).
- State and National PTAs assist local PTA units in developing strategies to effectively address concerns in the community.
- Each PTA unit president receives a subscription to the National PTA magazine, *Our Children*, which contains information concerning all aspects of PTA.
- Each PTA unit receives a subscription to the Iowa PTA bulletin, *One Voice*, which contains information about all aspects of PTA in Iowa.
- The Iowa PTA website, [www.iowapta.org](http://www.iowapta.org), contains a wealth of information about PTA in Iowa and provides links to relevant information at associated websites.
- Each PTA unit president is sent a monthly email newsletter from the Iowa PTA President containing reminders of upcoming events and highlights of various activities.