

PTA CONNECTS

California State PTA Online Newsletter

August 2016

Para leer este en español, haga clic [aquí](#).

Three tips for a year of student success

It's back-to-school time! Get to know three tips to make this season -- and the entire school year -- the best it can be for your child and school:

- **Family engagement is key to student success** -- Decades of research proves family engagement is key to kids' success in school, and in life. Parents' engagement in children's lives -- reading together, monitoring homework, ensuring attendance, working with teachers, asking questions about your child's day and joining PTA -- impacts student success far more than parents' income, education or ZIP code.
- **Healthy kids are better learners** -- There's a critical link between health and student achievement. Families, teachers and researchers know that our kids can't grow, learn and succeed when they're not healthy. Parents can help ensure healthy children -- and successful learners -- by providing nutritious meals and health care, staying on top of health developments, and staying in touch with your local PTA for the latest information on health issues and programs at your children's schools.
- **State and local education-policy changes can strengthen parents' voices** -- From a recently revised education-funding formula to updated standards for teaching, learning and assessment, California's schools are undergoing historic changes. Understanding how the education system works and keeping up on changes increases the likelihood of parent and community involvement, which increases student success.



[Find out more](#) about how you can make a difference with these tips in your home or school community!

And remember -- PTA has FREE resources available to strengthen student success:

- [PTA in California](#) -- Available in six languages, this all-education special edition offers information on state standards, assessment score reports, family engagement, the School Smarts Parent Engagement Program, arts education, PTA membership and more

- [100 Ways to Help Your Child Succeed](#) -- These English/Spanish tips help you support children's learning at home, at school and even on the go
- [Student Assessments](#) -- Download and share English/Spanish fliers outlining what the scores mean and questions to ask
- [Tips from Teachers](#) -- Created in partnership with the California Teachers Association, fliers available in 11 languages offer advice from educators
- And [more](#).

Do good things for kids -- JOIN PTA

Just by joining PTA, you show children that school matters and that you are invested in their success -- and their future. And there are so many more reasons to join, too:

- **Get connected** -- There's no better way to know what's happening in schools or to develop relationships with teachers and principals
- **Discover great resources** -- PTA offers a variety of unique programs and materials for students, parents, families, schools and communities
- **Speak up** -- PTA gives families and community members a "seat at the table" when important school decisions are being made
- **Be a role model** -- By becoming a PTA member, you demonstrate to children the importance you place on education
- **Enjoy extra benefits** -- PTA members enjoy exclusive money-saving member perks including discounts on school supplies, rental cars, amusement parks and much more
- **Make a difference** -- By working together, PTA members advance local, state and national laws and policies to improve the education, health and well-being of all children.



Juarez-Lincoln Elementary PTA welcomes new members.

PTA membership is open to everybody -- whether you're a parent, student, educator, business leader or community member. **Do good things for kids -- JOIN PTA!**

It's back-to-school season for parents, too!

While millions of children are going back to school this month, so are parents with California State PTA's [School Smarts Parent Engagement Program](#).

Free to parents in six languages and now available statewide, this award-winning program offers a seven-session parent academy that educates and empowers parents. Plus each session includes instructional art activities that reinforce key lessons, which helps build a sense of community and underscores the importance of a complete education that includes the arts.

More than 2,300 parents and family members graduated from School Smarts last school year alone -- you can be one of them: [Find out more](#) about bringing this program to your school community.



PTA advocates for the whole child

PTA's mission doesn't start and stop at the school door! As the nation's oldest and largest child-advocacy association, PTA is uniquely committed to advocating at the local, state and national levels on all issues affecting children: education, health, community concerns and more.

This summer, California State PTA leaders joined hundreds of PTA leaders from across the country to support *every* child with *one* voice at the National PTA Annual Convention and Expo.

These volunteer leaders participated in workshops, shared ideas and conducted the business of the association. This year, National PTA delegates adopted [resolutions](#) to guide our advocacy efforts on behalf of all children. Delegates adopted resolutions on [Recognition of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning \(LGBTQ\) Individuals as a Protected Class](#), supporting legislation and regulations to address the dangers of [Electronic Cigarettes and Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems \(ENDS\)](#) and [Youth](#), promoting [Homework: Quality Over Quantity](#) and calling for [Water Safety and Instruction](#).

California State PTA has taken action on these issues, with California State PTA delegates passing resolutions on [homework](#) and [LGBTQ+ inclusion](#), which were forwarded to National PTA and were incorporated in the National PTA resolutions.

Find out more about PTA's [advocacy](#) on behalf of all children -- and how you can get involved!



Ed100: New and improved for the new school year

[Ed100](#) -- the FREE, online and fun way to help you understand California's education system -- is easier to use than ever with web upgrades for this school year!

Available in English and Spanish, this helpful resource is written to help parents understand the important issues in education so we can help improve our schools.



From big topics like how schools are funded to practical lessons on school attendance and how you can get engaged in your school community, Ed100 has accurate information everyone can rely on. Check it out today -- and you could even [help your PTA](#) win funds for your school community!

Be a part of the PTA online community

If you want to know the latest news in education, health, family engagement and community concerns affecting children, schools and communities, become part of the ever-growing PTA online community!

Local PTAs, schools and others who care about children and families can exchange ideas, share best practices, discuss hot topics and get up-to-date information.

Follow California State PTA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), and use **#PTA4Kids**, **#DoGoodThingsforKids** and **#JoinPTA** when tweeting or posting to help spread the word!



California State "PTA Connects" is sent monthly to all PTA members and leaders as well as to all California principals and superintendents.

Please keep in mind that it's the dues of PTA members like you and the other thousands of parents, families, educators and community leaders throughout the state that we are able to continue to offer great resources and materials.

