

**The Purposes of PTA:**

- ◆ To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship.
- ◆ To raise the standards of home life.
- ◆ To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- ◆ To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.
- ◆ To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

**The PTA Mission:**

- ◆ To support and speak on behalf of all children and youth in the schools, in the community and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children;
- ◆ To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children;
- ◆ To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of the nation.

**Georgia PTA**

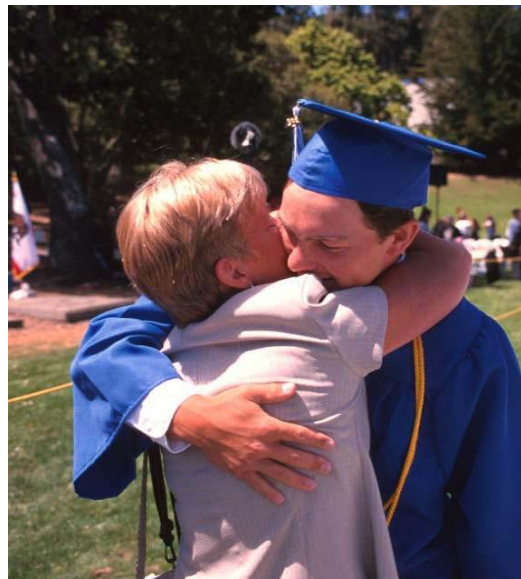
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**Georgia PTA**

**AN INFORMED  
APPROACH TO  
PARENT  
INVOLVEMENT**

*A guide for PTA Leaders, School  
Administrators, Teachers, Parents  
and Community Business Partners*



**How Do You Connect To Student Achievement?**

- HS Principal’s Chat (announcements also go to 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents of feeder middle schools)
- Parent to Parent Session (for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade [rising 9<sup>th</sup>] parents from feeder middle schools)
- Freshman Parent Night
- Freshman’s Survival Guide (for students and parents)
- Parent Handbook
- Parents Day of Learning
- Parent Recruitment
- Parent Patrol Squad
- Town Hall Meeting on Teen Driving (Ex: presented by Fear This 4 Life, Inc.)
- Project Grad Family Access Weekend (parents and students visit a college)
- Sophomore Open House
- Junior Week
- Project Graduation for Seniors
- Saturday Success Student Academy (tutorial classes for the SAT, GHSGT, EOCT, and Core subject review sessions)
- Saturday Success Parent Workshops (Graduation Requirements, Testing Skills, Parenting Skills, APS Mandates, No Child Left Behind, Computer Skills, and more)
- Defensive Driving workshops (weekend long clinics for students)
- College Night
- Parent Education Programs include: Freshmen Parent Orientation, PROBE College Fair, Financial Aid Night and Senior Parent Information Night, Junior College Night, How to Succeed in High School, Drug ID Night, Internet Awareness, and Underage Drinking – The Challenge
- National Parent Corps (involving parents in their children’s lives to make them aware of the dangers of alcohol, drugs and tobacco)
- Computer Training Class
- School Cultural Arts Festival
- Part of the Solution blog (created to provide information to parents about important events)
- Newcomers Network
- Student Directory
- Bi-Monthly PTSA Newsletter
- PTSA E-Newsletter
- PTSA Website
- School Calendar
- School Website
- Georgia PTA Website
- Invite Local School Board members to Meet and Greet at beginning of school year
- First PTSA meeting in conjunction with Middle School/High School Open House
- Hold a Voter’s Registration Drive
- Attend PTSA meetings
- Attend School Advisory Council meetings
- Know the local, state, and national Legislators and Congressmen, *and* the issues they support
- Discuss community, state, national and international news and their relevance in daily life
- Invite local leaders to a Panel Session at school to speak on relevant and current issues
- Encourage parents to fill out a survey; ask their opinion; process findings to assess needs, develop programs
- Ensure parents attend Parent/Teacher Conferences and walk away with a clear understanding of student expectations, and strategies on how they can assist with student learning
- Invite parents to read, review, submit comments to the Parent Involvement Policy
- Host a Blood Drive
- Toys for Tots
- Landscape Beautification Program (to create a safe, clean environment for everyone)
- Family/Faculty/Students Basketball Game
- Teacher Appreciation Breakfast &/or Lunch
- Community Outreach (food drives, work with school clubs for community awareness/giving)
- National Volunteer Week
- National Teacher Appreciation Week
- Make A Difference Day at the feeder Elementary School (Ex: high school students staff Fall Festival)
- PTSA Spirit Store (Ex: work with Special Education teachers and their students)
- Monthly Character Education Breakfasts

# WHEN FAMILIES ARE INVOLVED AT HOME AND AT SCHOOL...

...CHILDREN DO BETTER IN SCHOOL, AND THE SCHOOLS GET BETTER.

## Research Findings:

**1. Link to Learning:** Parent and community involvement that is designed to *improve student learning* has a greater effect on achievement.

**2. Programs Work:** Events and activities designed to engage families in supporting children's learning lead to improved student achievement.

**3. Advocacy is Protective:** The more families can be advocates for children and support their progress, the better their children do, and the longer they stay, in school.

**4. All Families Contribute:** Families of all backgrounds are involved at home.

- Talk about school
- Help plan for higher education
- Keep focused on learning and homework
- Encourage their children

**5. Community Organizing is Getting Results:**

- Upgraded school facilities
- Improved school leadership and staffing
- Higher quality learning programs
- Resources to improve teaching and curriculum
- Funding for after-school programs and family supports

(Lewis, Mediratta and Fruchter, 2002)

## 6. Practices That Engage All Families:

- Focus on building personal relationships
- Recognize and remove barriers
- Embrace partnership and share power
- Address class and cultural differences

## Ways to Bridge Class and Cultural Differences:

- Identify and use cultural brokers
- Work with community groups
- Make sure parent meetings are welcoming
- Reflect families' cultures
- Build on families' values; share traditions, tell education stories, ask about expectations for their children

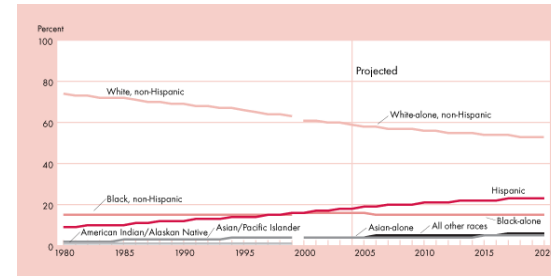
## Parents Are More Likely to Become Involved When:

- Parents understand that they SHOULD be involved
  - Parents feel CAPABLE of making a contribution
  - Parents feel INVITED by the school and their children
- (Hoover-Dempsey and Sandler, 1997)

## Georgia Is Changing:

- Immigration
- Poverty
- New Economy/New Standards for Achievement

Percentage of U.S. children ages 0–17 by race and Hispanic origin, 1980–2003 and projected 2004–2020



## Our Country's Children, Ages 0-18:

- 73 million children, 25% of total U. S. population
- 18% live below federal poverty line
- 59.1 million children, Pre-K–12, currently being educated

## Georgia's Children, Ages 0-18:

- 2.4 million children, 26% of total state population
- 20% live below federal poverty level
- We are educating 1.6 million children, Pre-K–12, 50.30% are eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch Program

## NAEP Achievement Levels 2005:

% Proficient	Math	Reading
Grade 4	30%	26%
Grade 8	23%	25%

Kids Count, Georgia data, <http://www.kidscount.org/sld/compare.jsp?c=5>

## New Standards for Achievement:

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

**Communicating effectively.** Families and school staff engage in regular, meaningful communication about student learning.

**Supporting student success.** Families and school staff have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to support students' learning and healthy development.

**Speaking up for every child.** Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that they are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

**Sharing power.** Families and school staff together inform, influence and create policies, practices and programs, as equal partners in decisions that affect children and families.

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