

Guidelines for the 3-to1 Rule of PTA Programs

What is the 3-to-1 Rule?

For every **ONE** fund-raising activity, there should be at least **THREE** non-fund-raising programs/projects aimed at helping parents or children, or advocating for school improvement.

Programs support the goals established by the Association at the beginning of the year. They should be related to the purposes of PTA and be educational in nature in the areas of: education (school), parent education, health/safety ed., and media education. A project is not educational and is a "break even" activity that is not intended to make money. A fund-raising activity is intended for the sole purpose of funding programs. All fund-raisers, programs, and projects must be approved by the General Association and recorded in the minutes.

- These are programs:

- Art Masters
- Assemblies (educational, such as no smoking, disability awareness, etc.)
- Class Act
- Education-related family nights
- Field trips (only if related to the curriculum)
- Founders Day (if you educate parents about it)
- Having a speaker at a meeting
- Legislation
- Literacy/literature program (buying books falls under this)
- Red Ribbon Week
- Reflections
- Special ed. (if you actually educate parents about it)
- Technology purchases (as they relate to education)
- Department or Teacher Grants
- Scholarships

- These are projects:

- Directory
- Family nights (Bingo, magic shows, etc.)
- Holiday shop
- Hospitality/teacher appreciation
- Newsletter
- Spirit wear
- Technology purchases
- Yearbook

- These are fund-raisers:

- Gift Wrap Sales
- Cookie Dough
- Walk-a-thon
- Entertainment Books
- Auctions
- Bake Sales
- Book Fair
- Family Photos
- Fair/Carnival

Discussion Topics What Are Appropriate PTA Expenses?

Front Money to ASB for Spirit Wear—no
Teacher Lunch on In-Service Day—no
Bus Passes for Children whose Dad lost his Job—no
Assembly Speaker for Red Ribbon Week-yes
Rug for Teachers' Lounge—no
Subscription to PEOPLE Magazine (English and Spanish) for School Library—yes
Class Set of Textbooks-no
Subscription to TIME Magazine for School Library—yes
Principal's Retirement Gift-no
Graphing calculators for 8th Grade Math Classrooms-no
Reflections Winner's Trip to PTA Convention—no (state PTA pays for it)
Guest Speaker for AP Art History Class-no
Teacher Gifts—no
Graduating Seniors Scholarship-yes
Expenses for Teacher to Attend PTA State Convention—yes if teacher is a member and chosen to go for your unit
Grad Night Celebration-no
Surf & Turf Luncheon for Teachers-no
Pot Luck Luncheon for Teachers-yes
Wine & Cheese Reception for New Members—no to wine
Disaster Relief—yes
Hire a Playground Monitor for ten hours per week-yes
Tissues for classrooms during Flu season-yes
Deluxe Color Copier for Teachers and Staff—no
Deluxe Color Copier for PTA~yes
Maintenance Contract for Deluxe Color Copier—yes if it is PTA's copier
Computer Software—yes if for all the kids
Babysitters for PTA Meetings—yes
Golf Cart for Campus Supervisors—no
Attendance Phone Line for Parents to Call-yes
Popsicle Party for Class with highest PTA Membership—yes
Safety Vest for School Staff—no, should be district expense
Electronic Marquee in front of school—yes if no strings attached