

Is Your PTA a Clique?

Clique: a small, exclusive group of people.

Does your PTA have room to grow?

Are you welcoming new parents?

Are you open to change?

Are you building bridges?

Do you reflect the cultures in your school?

Are you dad-friendly?

Are you making the word “clique” obsolete in your PTA?



Our common ground is our children, and our children deserve the best we can give. PTA’s mission is to support our schools and speak on behalf of every child with one voice.

If your PTA/PTSA membership does not reflect the cultures of your school, make diversity and inclusiveness a top priority this year. Here are a few tips to help you make all parents and friends know they are welcome and needed:

- **Arrange a meeting with individuals** who can help. Be open to what needs to change. Listen to what your PTA can do to make people feel they belong. Then go out and do it!
- **Start a leadership training program.** Invite new parents, parents who have not been involved, members of the community, and businesses to participate.
- **Create a position on your board** for diversity/cultural development, and celebrate diversity in your school. Provide a diversity resource each month for students and parents. Celebrate the uniqueness of your students, and incorporate that diversity into school activities.
- **Train your board on diversity issues.** Focus on a different aspect of diversity at each board meeting. Resistance to new ideas (“But we’ve always done it the other way) and opinions (“Everybody likes the festival like it is”) are the warning signs of a clique. Take action before one develops!
- **Contact a local community college or university,** and ask for help to develop educational programs on inclusiveness for your meetings. Many colleges have students conducting research on diversity/inclusiveness issues or developing projects to increase diversity awareness who would be glad to help your PTA.
- **Open your doors,** and make your PTA/PTSA a large, welcoming, inclusive group of people, with room to grow.

~ From **National PTA Field Service Newsletter**, October 2004