

Professional Governance Standards

The bylaws and standing rules for each PTA provide a framework for the organization. In order to operate effectively using this framework, PTA executive boards and individual board members will benefit from adherence to professional standards of governance.

Professional governance standards specify principles involved in governing responsibly and effectively and were developed to support PTA boards in their efforts to enhance their membership's and the community's understanding about the responsibilities of the PTA board.

The Individual Board Member

A PTA board member is a person elected or appointed to serve on a PTA executive board. Individual board members bring unique skills, values and beliefs to the PTA board and in order to function effectively, individual board members must work together for the association. To be effective, an individual board member:

- Recognizes and respects differences of perspective and style among the individual board members
- Acts with dignity and understands the implications of demeanor and behavior
- Honors the confidentiality of board discussions
- Is open to new ideas and suggestions
- Is familiar with the bylaws in respect to the individual position as well as the organization as a whole
- Understands that authority rests with the board as a whole and not with individuals
- Understands that the basis for all authority rests with the membership
- Participates in opportunities for training
- Commits the time and energy necessary to be an informed and effective leader
- Assists those with less experience
- Understands the distinctions between PTA and the school staff and refrains from performing functions that are the responsibility of the school district
- Values, supports and advocates for public education
- Represents the PTA only when authorized to do so

The PTA Executive Board

The members of the PTA executive board work together as a governance team which assumes collective responsibility for building unity and creating a positive climate during term of office. To operate effectively, the executive board:

- Develops a unity of purpose by involving parents/guardians, students, staff and community
- Communicates a common vision
- Operates with trust and integrity
- Remains responsive to input from the school community
- Governs in a professional manner, treating everyone with civility and respect
- Fulfills requirements set within bylaws and standing rules
- Takes collective responsibility for the board's performance
- Proposes for adoption by the membership a fiscally responsible budget based on the organization's vision and goals
- Monitors the fiscal health of the association regularly
- Ensures that safe and appropriate activities are provided to implement the goals
- Provides community leadership on issues that affect children and youth
- Works collaboratively with other groups and agencies that share the same concerns on issues that affect children and youth
- Encourages individual board members to attend available training opportunities
- Serves as a communication link between the home, school and community
- Evaluates the activities and direction of the board on a regular basis

*"With strong leadership, PTA will have the competent, committed people necessary to be effective advocates for children and youth."
California State PTA Toolkit*

Professional Governance Certificate

The California State PTA has adopted the professional governance standards. Every PTA is encouraged to adopt professional governance standards at the beginning of each term.

The California State PTA will issue a certificate to each PTA that adopts the professional governance standards.

The Mission of the California State PTA

The mission of the California State PTA is to positively impact the lives of all children and families by representing our members and empowering and supporting them with skills in advocacy, leadership, and communications.

California State PTA Board of Managers, July 2007

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 California State PTA would like to recognize your PTA for its work. Please notify the California State PTA that your PTA has adopted the Professional Governance Standards. A certificate will be mailed to the PTA president and a letter of acknowledgement will be sent to your administrator.

Name of PTA _____ ID# _____
Name of Principal _____ Number of PTA Executive Board Members _____
Name of PTA President _____
Mailing Address _____
E-mail Address _____
Date Adopted _____ Council _____ District _____
PTA President Signature _____ Print Name _____

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California State
PTA[®]
everychild.one voice.

Professional
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Standards
