

2025-26 PTA Leader **TOOLKIT** LOUISIANA PTA

Section 1:
Louisiana PTA (LouisianaPTA.org)
and National PTA (PTA.org)



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Growing the Future Rooted in Tradition

The 2025-26 theme for Louisiana PTA is “**Growing the Future Rooted in Tradition.**”

Using unique Louisiana imagery, our theme invokes the PTA’s longstanding history of advocating for children and highlights the goal of nurturing future generations. PTA’s philanthropic work is an opportunity to give selflessly and to positively affect the lives of children. Become part of something meaningful and important where your contribution matters.

The Louisiana PTA Board is planning its future, and we see YOU in it. There are Board positions that don’t take much time or that can use your gifts and talents to the fullest. If you’d like to increase your impact on children through PTA work at the state level, please contact LAPTA. We all do it because it’s enjoyable, and you are part of our future! Email President@LouisianaPTA.org to talk about how you might fit in.



Louisiana PTA Board of Directors

The LAPTA Board of Directors is made up of volunteers from Local PTA Units. Most Board Members also serve at the local level. Contact the Board Members with any questions. There are several volunteer positions currently open. If you are interested in serving at the state level as a committee chair or committee member, contact LAPTA President at President@LouisianaPTA.org. Join us! I promise it’s not overwhelming.

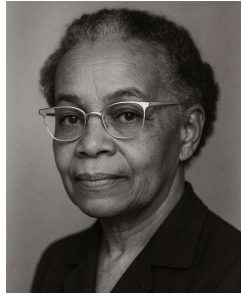
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History of Louisiana PTA

The Louisiana PTA (Parent Teacher Association) started more than 100 years ago with two segregated groups which did not unite until 1970. Please note that the name of the Shreveport group used words that we do not use in modern times. Check out the historical documents posted at LouisianaPTA.org/history which contain lots of details and pictures! *The first two individual photos below were enhanced with artificial intelligence.*

1910 – 1970: History of the Black Group

- In 1910, a small group of black mothers met at the Peabody Elementary School and organized a Mother's Club which was in keeping with the purposes of the National PTA.
- In 1923, the Brock Street School organized the first PTA for Colored in Shreveport.
- In 1929, the Louisiana Colored Parent-Teacher Association is organized and joins the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers. Mrs. M. N. Ringgold served as the first president. *(Photo enhanced with AI.)*
- Until 1970, the Louisiana Congress of Colored Parent-Teacher Association supported the physical needs of underprivileged children, focused on character and spiritual education, child welfare, juvenile delinquency projects, community support during WWII, natural disaster recovery efforts, and provided drinking fountains, cafeterias, sidewalks, encyclopedias, and audio-visual equipment. The PTAs continued to grow in membership and in their advocacy efforts.



1918 – 1970: History of the White Group

- In 1918, the Spanish Flu Epidemic impacted Louisiana closing schools and halting education, and the New Orleans School Board proposed an overly aggressive recovery plan. In response, parents united and successfully changed the policy.
- In 1919, the New Orleans Council of Mothers formed and became part of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations.
- On February 9, 1923, the Louisiana Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers Associations was founded and affiliated with National Congress. Mrs. Virgil Brown served as the first president with 40 local units and more than 2,000 members. *(Photo enhanced with AI.)*
- Until 1970, as the LA Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Association grew across Louisiana, it adopted resolutions and influenced legislative action in childhood literacy, preventive health actions, the juvenile justice system, teachers' pay, and distribution of public school funding.



1970 – Present: Unification of the Two Groups

- On November 24, 1970, the Louisiana Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (the black member group) and the Louisiana Parent-Teacher Association (the white member group) sign a merger agreement in New Orleans at the 41st Annual Session of the LA Congress of Parents and Teachers, commonly called Louisiana PTA. *Photo below.*
- In 2020, the Covid-19 Pandemic closed brick and mortar schools. PTAs worked with community agencies to provide meal pick-up sites and deliveries for children.
- In 2022, PTAs worked to rebuild and provide stability and resources to children returning to in-person learning.
- On February 9, 2023, Louisiana PTA received a Commendation from the Louisiana Governor celebrating 100 years of service to the families and communities of Louisiana.
- On March 25, 2023, Louisiana Lagniappe PTSA was chartered as the first state-wide Local PTA Unit in Louisiana.
- The rest of its history has yet to be written. It needs you, your impact, and your support!



What Does LAPTA Do?

The LAPTA office is located at **1131 N. Causeway Blvd, Suite 306, Mandeville, LA 70471**. All Local PTA Units in Louisiana are affiliates of Louisiana PTA (LAPTA) and National PTA. LAPTA has the following duties:

- Makes every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.
- Advocates for children at the local, state, and federal levels, including National PTA's Legislative Conference in Washington, DC with the members of Congress.
- Assists Local PTAs in building community through programs that promote student achievement and creativity.
- Ensures Local PTA Units operate according to National PTA's vision, mission, values, purposes, principles, policies and legislative and advocacy priorities, positions, and resolutions.
- Aids the Local PTAs in maintaining compliance with National PTA, LAPTA, and IRS rules and requirements.
- Forwards the National PTA dues portion from Local PTA Units' dues submitted to LAPTA.
- Represents all Louisiana PTA members by participating in and voting at the National PTA Convention.
- Sits on Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) STAR Task Force, LDOE Parent and Family Engagement Task Force, and Seymore D'Fair Education Foundation and Prevention Coalition.
- Judges the annual LDOE Teacher and Principal of the Year Awards.
- Hosts LAPTA Leadership Training in August and privately throughout the year for individual PTAs as needed.
- Offers LAPTA grants to help fund Local PTA Units in providing engaging, educational, and fun opportunities for children, families, and communities.
- Assists PTA leaders if challenges or issues occur.
- Helps create new PTA units and reinstate unaffiliated units.
- Implements National PTA Reflections Program and awards state winners.
- Holds the annual General Membership State Meeting.

Friends of LAPTA

Louisiana PTA is financially supported by its Friends of LAPTA who help us achieve the mission and vision of supporting all children and families. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, LAPTA offers different avenues to help all children reach their potential by utilizing 54 grants, more than 225 awards, and dozens of programs for teachers, students, and local PTAs. The innovative programs and grants focus on topics such as STEM, literacy, mental health, student leadership, comprehensive arts programs, healthy earth, anti-bullying, anti-drug, sustainability, inclusion, diversity, internet safety, community outreach, and much more. Friends of LAPTA help support these successful programs.

Philanthropic work, especially when it involves children and their education, makes a significant impact on the community. Friends of LAPTA join forces with LAPTA's nonpartisan, nonsectarian, and noncommercial advocacy work. Contact LAPTA to discuss what works best for you among the different partnering opportunities. To become a Friend of LAPTA, see LouisianaPTA.org/friends. LAPTA sincerely appreciates the time and resources that our Friends provide. Everyone on our Board of Directors is a volunteer because we all believe in our mission that much.

Mission Partners of LAPTA

Mission Partners are organizations dedicated to enhancing the well-being of children, sharing a common mission with the PTA. These kindred associations and coalitions encompass a wide array of entities, such as teacher or librarian groups, foster care organizations, mental health advocacy groups, and many others. If you're interested in becoming a Mission Partner or seeking additional information, see LouisianaPTA.org/missionpartners. Our current Mission Partners include:

**ON OUR
SLEEVES®**

The Movement for Children's Mental Health

On Our Sleeves Alliance works to amplify the cause of children's mental health through the voices and actions of leading corporations, youth-serving and health care organizations across the country. The Alliance works to empower the mental health and wellness of every child in the US, through fundraising and distribution of expert-created resources necessary for breaking stigmas, educating families, and advocates and teaching mental wellness skills. See OnOurSleeves.org.



Seymore's Foundation operates under the Community Drug-Free Support Program. The coalition between many national programs provides a unified community force that promotes healthy lifestyle choices and focuses on prevention and reduction of substance use and other negative risky behaviors affecting children. They create an annual theme for Red Ribbon Week. See SeymoresFoundation.org.

National PTA

In 1897 when Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst decided that someone should speak out on behalf of children, they founded the National Congress of Mothers which later became the **Parent Teacher Association**. PTA stands as the oldest and most extensive child advocacy association in the United States. Within its ranks, PTA unites millions of parents, teachers, grandparents, caregivers, foster parents, and other dedicated adults who are deeply committed to enhancing the education, health, and safety of all children. Together, they speak with one resounding voice in unison, advocating for every child's well-being. The National PTA Office is located at 1250 North Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, or call 800-307-4PTA (4782).

For more than 128 years, PTA advocacy initiated many changes such as the creation of kindergarten, child labor laws, public health service, juvenile justice system, mandatory immunization, and the school lunch program. Today, PTA continues to advocate for all children, to press for adequate, equitable, and sustainable school funding, to create safe and healthy communities, and to make every child's potential a reality. PTA empowers parents by providing them with a platform and resources to collectively influence decisions impacting children across schools, districts, states, and the nation. PTA extends invaluable benefits including:

- Access to an array of national programs, expert insights, and readily available resources.
- Timely updates and guidance through various channels like newsletters, PTA.org, *Our Children* magazine, and a comprehensive Local PTA Leader Toolkit.
- Opportunities for leadership development via webinars and e-learning courses.
- Availability of grants, amounting to millions of dollars, aimed at bolstering PTA capabilities and skills.
- The chance to attain prestigious national awards.
- Cost-saving benefits through partnerships with national retailers and other PTA collaborators.
- Invitations to the annual PTA Convention and the Legislative Conference.
- Support services to assist in establishing and managing PTAs effectively.

The Local PTA Unit operates in harmony with the Louisiana PTA (LAPTA) and National PTA organizations. This alignment reflects shared missions, purposes, values, and standards upheld by the National PTA.

Why are we here? The Mission of PTA is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

The Purposes of PTA are:

- To promote the welfare of children in home, school, places of worship, and throughout the community;
- To raise the standards of home life;
- To advocate for laws that further the education, physical and mental health, welfare, and safety of children;
- To promote the collaboration and engagement of families and educators in the education of children;
- To engage the public in united efforts to secure the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and social well-being of all children; and,
- To advocate for fiscal responsibility regarding public tax dollars in public education funding.

The Values of PTA are:

- **Collaboration:** We work in partnership with a wide array of individuals and organizations to broaden and enhance our ability to serve and advocate for all children and families.
- **Commitment:** We dedicate ourselves to children's educational success, health, and well-being through strong family and community engagement while remaining accountable to the PTA's founding principles.
- **Diversity:** We acknowledge the potential of everyone without regard to age, culture, economic status, educational background, ethnicity, gender, geographic location, legal status, marital status, mental ability,

national origin, organizational position, parental status, physical ability, political philosophy, race, religion, sexual orientation, and work experience.

- **Respect:** We value the individual contributions of members, employees, volunteers, and partners as we work collaboratively to achieve our PTA's goals.
- **Accountability:** All members, employees, volunteers, and partners share responsibility to align their efforts toward the achievement of our PTA's strategic initiatives.

National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships

The PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships set the bar for how schools and parent organizations work together to support student success. The Standards have contributed to greater awareness and capacity for improving family-school partnerships across the country and internationally for over 20 years. Get to know the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships by exploring the definitions, goals, and indicators for each of the six tenets to help fulfill the mission of PTA at LouisianaPTA.org/familyengagement. The six standards are:

- **Standard 1: Welcome All Families** – Families actively participate in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.
- **Standard 2: Communicate Effectively** – Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.
- **Standard 3: Support Student Success** – Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and healthy development at home and school and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.
- **Standard 4: Speak Up for Every Child** – Families are empowered to advocate for their own and other children, and to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that support success.
- **Standard 5: Share Power** – Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.
- **Standard 6: Collaborate With Community** – Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.