

---

# Programs

LouisianaPTA.org/programs

---

## What Are Programs?

Programs are the good things or events that PTAs do. Is there a need in your school or community that you can fill? PTAs have an opportunity to advocate for children in all kinds of ways, big and small, from the classroom to Capitol Hill, and to create a strong community in the process. These events and activities improve education for all students and help them reach their potential. Programs can be combined with a small fundraiser, a give-away, or a school event to increase attendance. Aim to have at least **three programs for each fundraiser, which is the 3:1 rule.**

## National PTA Programs

The programs by National PTA are a great resource for Family Engagement events or student programs, especially for Title I schools. All support documentation is included with how-to videos. There are programs for all ages.

- **Family Reading Experience** supports development of literacy skills and encourages a love of reading. Programs include 1) Book Bingo, 2) Build a Library, 3) Connecting Families with Inclusive Books, 4) Hosting a Visiting Author or Illustrator, 5) Community Book Swap, 6) Community Read, and 7) Virtual Bedtime Story.
- **STEM + Families<sup>®</sup>** delivers hands-on exposure to science, technology, engineering and math to engage families and inspire students to pursue career opportunities in STEM fields. They cover 1) STEM at Home Activities, 2) Science Festivals, 3) Engineering: Propelling Our World, 4) STEM Resources, and 5) About STEM+ Families.
- **PTA Connected** helps children to act safely, responsibly and thoughtfully online. It connects parents with tools, research and support to make the best decisions for their children. They include 1) Be Internet Awesome, 2) Digital Families Community Events, 3) The Smart Talk, and 4) Ready, Tech, Go!, and 5) Build Up and Belong.
- **Healthy Lifestyles** improve the overall health and well-being of families which is a key component to students' abilities to thrive. The three pillars: Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds, and Healthy Earth. Healthy Bodies includes 1) Family Tasting Nights, 2) Healthy Hydration, 3) PTA Wellness Fairs, and 4) Tobacco Prevention Campaign.
- **Connect for Respect** is an anti-bullying initiative to help create school climates full of safe and supportive peer relationships. One of the most effective ways to prevent bullying behavior is to create a positive school climate where students, families and educators all work collaboratively to build a culture of respect.

## Program and Event Ideas

- Used Uniform Sales where everything is \$1 and families donate their old items.
- Donation Closet – school supplies, sanitary products (Grade 2+), deodorant, dental care (donated by dentist)
- Friday Pantry – grab bags of food for students with food insecurity; teachers distribute the food to their students
- Clothes Closet – coats, uniforms, Prom dresses and suits, professional interview outfits
- Family Learning Nights (See NPTA Programs and Grants)
- LAPTA Reflections Arts Program, Reflections Theme Search Contest, Safety Poster Contest
- Read It Again Book Exchange – students bring in books and do a book swap
- Teacher Spirit Cart or Woohoo Wagon of snacks/drinks
- Movie Night – PTA hosts a movie night for the students with snacks, etc.
- PBIS Support – stock the store where kids can turn in their PBIS “bucks” for treats
- S’mores and Hot Cocoa Night
- Back-to-School Car wash
- Grandparents Bingo, Donuts with Grown-Ups, Donuts with Dudes/Dudettes, Pastries with Parents, Breakfast with a Buddy, Ladies Breakfast Club, French Toast with Your Favorites, Pizza with Your Peeps
- Co-host events with feeder schools/PTAs, such as an End-of-Summer Picnic. Share decorating items.
- Talent or Variety Show
- Adopt-a-Student Fairy Godparent – Create a Google doc where parents can sign their kids up who need a Fairy Godparent. Find community donors to give school supplies, clothing, Christmas gift, etc.
- Summer Playground Playdates – schedule weekly playdates at a playground with music, popsicles and water or lemonade for young students and incoming Kindergarteners to get to know each other before school starts

# Standing Committee Examples – The Possibilities Are Endless!

Advocacy	Fundraising	Newsletter	Student Involvement
Beautification	Healthy Minds/Lifestyles	Programs	Teacher Appreciation
Communications	Hospitality	Reflections/Arts	Translation
Donation Closet	Inclusion	Room Reps	Used Uniform Sales
Education	Male Engagement	Social Media	Volunteer
Family Engagement	Membership	Spirit Wear/Uniforms	Welcome
Friday Food Pantry	Merchandise	Student Council	

---

## Fundraising

LouisianaPTA.org/funds

---

### Fundraising

Most PTAs need to raise funds to provide programs and services. However, fundraising efforts should not be the primary emphasis for PTAs. Fundraising should be in response to supporting PTA work. PTAs should engage in **three programs or service projects for each fundraiser activity hosted, 3-to-1 rule**. Evaluate opportunities carefully and consider all legal and community-related implications. When choosing a fundraiser, look at cost and profit margins. Do fundraising events that your community is most likely to support. Consider the dollar amount per purchase that your community will support, such as \$1 or \$100. Consult with your administrators on the number and type of fundraisers with a maximum of two big fundraisers per year. Offer electronic payment options such as Givebacks.com, etc.

### Fundraising Ideas

Ask Membership for Donations	<a href="#">RaiseRight.com Gift Cards</a>	Auction Night
Community/Business Sponsorships	Fashion Show & Brunch	Parents' Night Out
Restaurant Nights	Nothing Bundt Cakes, etc.	Discount Card for Local Stores
Fun Run or Color Run	Parent Perks like reserved parking, carline cuts, early event entry	Plant Sale or Bake Sale
Readathon	Shoe Drive	Car Wash
Chocolate/Popcorn/Catalog Sales	Givebacks.com	Talent Show
Shake/Smoothie Days	Festivals	Gift Baskets or Big Item Raffle
Christmas Store	Golf Tournament	Concession Stands
Penny Wars or Coin Challenge	Gumbo Cook-Off and Car Show	Dances or Evening Social/Movie
Jewelry Pop Up Shop (Kendra Scott)	Merchandise and Uniform Sales	Birthday Surprise Yard Signs
<a href="#">RaiseCraze.com</a> "Kindness Thing"		Calendar Fundraiser (\$ is the Day #)

givebacks Louisiana Lagniappe PTSA

### Explore Fundraisers

[Crowdfunding](#) A-Thons Ticketed Events Auctions Raffles & Sweepstakes

## Rally support with crowdfunding

Mobilize your supporters around an easy to launch crowdfunding campaign.

- Tailored donation experience
- Add prizes that incentivize participants
- Turn one-time donations into ongoing passive giving

[Resource Center](#) [Preview Example](#)

[Get Started](#)