

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Community Involvement

Relationship with Parent-Teacher (Student) Associations

I. PURPOSE

- A. BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (BCPS) IS COMMITTED TO FOSTERING POSITIVE AND COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG SCHOOL STAFF, STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND COMMUNITY. Parent-Teacher Associations AND PARENT-TEACHER (STUDENT) ASSOCIATIONS (PT(S)A) play an important role in improving schools by fostering broad understanding of school programs; encouraging public support for program improvements; building positive relationships among school staff members, students, parents, and community; and keeping the school informed about community needs and concerns.
- B. THIS RULE SETS FORTH GUIDELINES TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WITH SCHOOL PT(S)A ORGANIZATIONS.

II. DEFINITIONS

*PT(S)A* - [are] Independent organizations that maintain close working relationships with schools. Both the school and its PT(S)A exist to promote STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT. [the education of each student.] Under most PT(S)A bylaws, the principal serves as a member of the PT(S)A Board of Directors.

III. DUTIES OF A SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

- A. The principal [is legally responsible for the school's program and, in this capacity,] serves as the educational leader OF HIS/HER SCHOOL and SHALL HAVE final DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY CONCERNING ALL PT(S)A ACTIVITIES. [decision-maker at each school].
- B. The principal should collaborate with the PT(S)A [in a manner that] TO SUPPORT [supports] THE effective exchange of information. [and aids in decision making].

IV. GUIDELINES [Activities to support collaboration should include:]

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- A. [Providing] PROVIDE comprehensive, current information about Board policies, Superintendent's rules, AND local school procedures, [and advising PT(S)A] TO ENSURE [so] that PT(S)A activities COMPLY [are in compliance] with all policies, rules, and procedures.
- B. [Offering] OFFER recommendations to the PT(S)A about ways the organization can support school goals and be an effective community advocate for the school and school system.
- C. [Encouraging] ENCOURAGE total community support for the PT(S)A and its programs.
- D. [Engaging] ENGAGE in discussions with the PT(S)A when there are community concerns about [aspects of] the school program and/or operations and [keeping] KEEP the PT(S)A informed about progress toward resolution of concerns as appropriate.
- E. [Informing] INFORM the PT(S)A about how the curriculum, instructional methods, and operations of the school meet student needs.
- F. [Encouraging] ENCOURAGE the PT(S)A nominating committee to select a slate of officers that is as representative as possible of the entire membership, including new parents and those from diverse geographical, racial, and socio-economic backgrounds.
- G. [Assisting] ASSIST the membership committee with opportunities to promote PT(S)A membership.
- H. [Reviewing] REVIEW PT(S)A communications and [assisting] ASSIST as appropriate with the distribution of PT(S)A information. All PT(S)A materials should be identified as such, and editorials or other articles of opinion shall be signed by their author(s).
- I. [Providing] PROVIDE access to interoffice mail and a school mailbox designated for PT(S)A use only.
- J. [Assisting] ASSIST in the development of the PT(S)A budget by suggesting ways to enhance the school program.

1. Final determination of the budget and methods for fundraising are the responsibility of the PT(S)A, except when these decisions may conflict with or duplicate school programs.
  2. When PT(S)A funds are provided for the principal to spend on school projects, he/she keeps accurate records and makes periodic reports on THE [these] expenditures to the PT(S)A.
- K. [Establishing] ESTABLISH a PT(S)A in a new school with the assistance of the PTA Council of Baltimore County (PTACBC).
- V. COMPLIANCE [The principal should become familiar with the following to aid in his/her understanding of the PT(S)A and to develop positive working relationships:]
- A. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF ARE ENCOURAGED TO BE ACTIVE IN THEIR SCHOOL'S PT(S)A AND SHOULD ACQUIRE:
1. A general knowledge of national, state, and county PT(S)A policies and the bylaws of the school PT(S)A.
  2. AN UNDERSTANDING OF the PTA Council of Baltimore County, its ROLE, publications, training, and workshop opportunities.[, and the role of the PTACBC.]
- B. ALL PT(S)A ACTIVITIES SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL BOARD POLICIES, INCLUDING THE BOARD'S ETHICS POLICIES; SUPERINTENDENT'S RULES; AND BCPS PROCEDURES.

Related Policies: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 1100, *COMMUNICATIONS*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 1200, *COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT*  
Board of Education Policy 1260, *School Volunteers*  
Board of Education Policy 1270, *Parent and Family Involvement*  
Board of Education Policy 1300, *Use of School Facilities*  
Board of Education Policy 2342, *Teacher Attendance at Parent-Teacher (Student) Association Meetings*  
Board of Education Policy 2361, *Distribution of Non-School Materials*

Rule

Superintendent of Schools

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