



**National Standards for
Family-School
Partnerships**

What We Can Do Together to
Support Student Success

The image shows the PTA logo in the top left corner of the page. Below the logo, the title "National Standards for Family-School Partnerships" is written in a large, bold, black font. Below the title, the subtitle "What We Can Do Together to Support Student Success" is written in a smaller, black font. At the bottom of the page, there are three interlocking puzzle pieces: a blue piece with a hand icon, a red piece with a heart icon, and a tan piece with a star icon.

Families and Communities Make a Difference!

The evidence from research
is clear and consistent:

**Families have a major influence
on their children's achievement.**



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Research Shows

The successful outcomes of parent/family
involvement happen regardless of:

- Socioeconomic status
- Ethnic/racial background
- Parents' level of education



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Why Parents Get Involved

Parents are more likely to become involved when they:

- Understand they *should* be involved
- Feel *capable* of making a contribution
- Feel *invited* by the school and their children



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(Hoover-Dempsey and
Sandler, 1997)



Parent Involvement in Action

When parents/families:

- Encourage learning
- Set high expectations
- Become involved in their children's learning at home and in school...



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The Results

Students will:

- Get higher grades and test scores
- Have better attendance
- Complete homework
- Graduate and go on to postsecondary education



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Everybody Wins!

- Higher teacher morale and job satisfaction
- Greater respect for teaching profession
- Improved communication between parents, teachers, and school administrators
- More community support
- Increased student achievement



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Standard 1

Welcoming All Families

Goal 1: Creating a Welcoming Climate

- Developing personal relationships
- Creating a family-friendly atmosphere
- Providing opportunities for volunteering

Goal 2: Building a Respectful, Inclusive School Community

- Respecting all families
- Removing economic obstacles to participation
- Ensuring accessible programming



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Standard 2

Communicating Effectively

Goal 1: Sharing Information Between School and Families

- Using multiple communication paths
- Surveying families to identify issues and concerns
- Having access to the principal
- Providing information on current issues
- Facilitating connections among families



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Standard 3

Supporting Student Success

Goal 1: Sharing Information About Student Progress

- Ensuring parent-teacher communication
- Linking student work to academic standards
- Using standardized test results to increase achievement
- Sharing school progress

Goal 2: Supporting Learning by Engaging Families

- Engaging families in classroom learning
- Developing family ability to strengthen learning at home
- Promoting after-school learning



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Standard 4

Speaking Up for Every Child

Goal 1: Understanding How the School System Works

- Understanding how the school and district operate
- Understanding rights and responsibilities under federal and state laws
- Learning about resources
- Resolving problems and conflicts

Goal 2: Empowering Families to Support Their Own and Other Children's Success in School

- Developing families' capacity to be effective advocates
- Planning for the future
- Smoothing transitions
- Engaging in civic advocacy for student achievement



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Standard 5

Sharing Power

Goal 1: Strengthening the Family's Voice in Shared Decision Making

- Having a voice in all decisions that affect children
- Addressing equity issues
- Developing parent leadership

Goal 2: Building Families' Social and Political Connections

- Connecting families to local officials
- Developing an effective parent involvement organization that represents all families



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Standard 6

Collaborating with Community

Goal 1: Connecting the School with Community Resources

- Linking to community resources
- Organizing support from community partners
- Turning the school into a hub of community life
- Partnering with community groups to strengthen families and support student success



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What Parents Can Do

- Send your child to school ready to learn every day
- Become knowledgeable about how schools work and the laws that govern their work
- Be confident about your ability to work with schools
- Expect only the best from your child and for your child
- **Join the PTA!**



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What Schools Can Do

- Welcome parents and community members as equal partners and value their involvement
- Educate parents about academic standards, assessments, student achievement requirements
- Share decision-making power with parents and the community



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What Communities Can Do

- Offer resources to schools, students, and families (financial, in-kind, political influence)
- Represent community interests in school planning and problem solving
- Provide extended learning opportunities outside of school (e.g., after-school, service learning, internships)



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What PTA Can Do

- Be a powerful voice for children
- Serve as a relevant resource for families and communities
- Act as a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child



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