

## Maryland PTA Structure and Function

*PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.*

### Local PTA Units:

- Are chartered by Maryland PTA when they assume the responsibility of the carrying out the PTA Purposes and Mission:
- Are self-governing.
- Plan programs, events, forums, projects and legislative testimonies to meet the needs of children and youth in their local communities;
- Are concerned about and study the needs of all children;
- Are composed of individual PTA members who enroll at the local level and automatically become part of Maryland PTA and the National PTA.
- PTA's are not supporting organizations, clubs or booster groups for any school. They are separate legal entities which further the PTA mission of providing parents/guardians and families with a powerful voice to speak on behalf of children. PTA's work in harmony with school personnel, but they are not part of any school and are not subject to directions or control in any manner by school administration.
- The primary focus of PTA should be the PTA Purposes, and not fund raising. PTA's may raise funds to meet their budgets, but they should be certain that they are raising funds for appropriate PTA expenders. When planning the year's activities, PTA should use the 3-to-1 rule. For every fund raising activity, there should be at least three non-fund-raising projects or advocacy initiatives aimed at helping parents, guardians and children's for the school.

### The Principal and the PTA as Partners

The principal and the PTA must not only understand their respective responsibilities, but each others. They must set goals and work cooperatively to achieve them. They must each other's opinion, not expect automatic approval from each other and not withdraw support if opinions differ. As partners, it means reaching out to all parents and school staffs to help all children and youth reach their potential.

### PTA's Rights and Responsibilities

The National PTA Board of Directors has stated that all PTAs certain organizational rights as follows:

- To function as an independent, nonpartisan child advocacy group.
- To seek enactment of policies and practices that protects children and youth.
- To participate within school board policy in the setting of school goals and assist in the review of teaching material.
- To participate in making decisions affecting policies, rules and regulations.
- To meet with appropriate school officials to discuss matters of mutual concern affecting children