

**Orange Public Schools:  
PTO Training Session  
March 16, 2022**

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# Objectives

Participants will:

- Understand the importance of family and community engagement in their school
- Learn the role of a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)
- Identify the six types of parental involvement
- Learn the next action steps for their organization

## What's the difference between a PTA and a PTO?

The technical **differences between a PTA and a PTO** are fairly simple. ... The **PTA** carefully protects its name so that only dues-paying members of the group can call themselves a **PTA**. **PTO**, on the other hand, is a generic term. It usually represents groups that choose to remain independent.

# Why Family and Community Engagement Matters

**Partnership and student achievement are closely linked**

Students whose families are involved in their learning earn better grades, enroll in higher-level programs, have higher graduation rates, and are more likely to go to college.

**Partnerships build public support for schools**

Higher levels of respect and trust from community, better teacher morale, higher ratings of teachers by families, more success at implementing school reforms.

**Families can help schools overcome challenges**

Collaboration between the community and schools to identify challenges, discuss productive approaches, and design and implement possible solutions.

**Teachers benefit from partnerships**

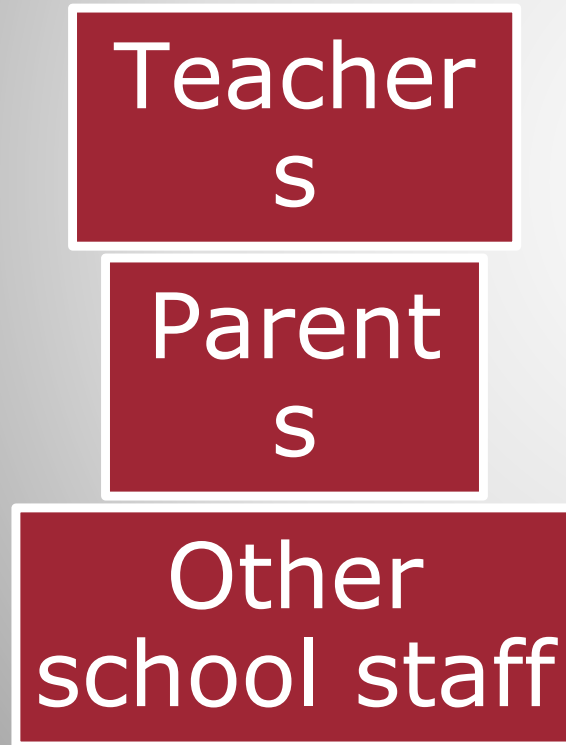
Educators can learn a great deal from parents: knowledge and perspective about their children, their culture and values, and the strengths and problems of their communities.

**It's required by law**

Rather than see parent engagement as compliance, take the opportunity and develop an effective school plan.

# Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Organization that consists  
of:



With the final goal  
to:

Help students  
reach their highest  
possible academic  
achievement

# What is the Role of a PTO?

The role of your organization should be the answer of the following question:

"What does your school need from you right now?"

## What is the Role of a PTO? (continued)

A PTO plays an important role in supporting schools and advocating for students by **increasing family engagement.**

The role is to help transform your school from a pile of bricks with books inside into a community where the kids know that they are not alone.

# Six Types of Parental Involvement

According to Dr. Joyce Epstein (2011), there are six types of parental involvement:

1. Parenting
2. Communicating
3. Volunteering
4. Learning at Home
5. Decision Making
6. Collaborating with the Community



# Mission Statement

Your mission statement should be **unique** to your group.

A typical mission statement is some version of this:

"ABC PTO is organized for the purpose of supporting the education of children at ABC Elementary by fostering relationships among the school, parents, and teachers."

# Mission Statement (continued)

A mission statement answers the following questions:

1. What are the opportunities or needs that we exist to address?
1. What are we doing to address these needs?
1. What principles or beliefs guide our work?

# Timeline for Main Activities

Planning!

- What will the PTO do at the next meeting?

## Example

### September

Bylaws  
Mission

### December

Holiday Event  
PTO Social

### Spring

Spring Events  
School Testing  
Fundraising

### October/November

Fall Event

### January

Spring Planning

### Summer

Staff Appreciation  
New PTO Elections  
Fall Planning

# PTO Resources

- National Parent Teacher Organization (PTO):
  - *Link:* <https://www.pto.org/index.html>
- National Parent/Teacher Association (PTA):
  - *Link:* <https://www.pta.org/>
- JerseyCares (Volunteers):
  - *Link:* <https://www.jerseycares.org/>
- Post Meeting Survey Example:
  - *Link:* [Post Meeting Google Form Survey](#)
- How to Start a PTO
  - *Link:* [How to Start a PTO](#)
- PTO Action Plan Template
  - *Link:* [PTO: Action Plan Template](#)
- District PTO Training Presentation
  - *Link:* [PTO Presentation 031622](#)

[www.ptotoday.com](http://www.ptotoday.com)



# Next Action Steps

- ❑ Celebrate families working together for the support of students
- ❑ Get to know each other and establish rules of working together
- ❑ Complete mission statement
- ❑ Build a volunteer team
- ❑ Establish a timeline for main activities
- ❑ Use the PTO Today Startup Toolkit to complete paperwork

# Remember...

**Family and  
Community  
Engagement**



**Student  
Achievement**



**“Virtual”  
District Parent Conference**

**Saturday, March 26, 2022  
11am - 1pm**



ORANGE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
IN COLLABORATION WITH  
COMMUNITY PARTNERS



# 5th Annual Parent Conference

**"EDUCATION BUILDS COMMUNITY"**

This zoom webinar will include student performances, family resources, social and emotional practices, and district updates. High school students can earn up to 2 community service hours. Spanish & Haitian Creole translation will be available.



Saturday,  
March 26, 2022



11:00 AM - 1:00 PM



REGISTER AT:  
<https://bit.ly/3HWfX3f>

Workshop I:

### PARENT UNIVERSITY

Office of Innovation &  
Community Engagement

Workshop III:

### LET THE BUSINESS OWNER IN YOU RISE!



Workshop II:

### SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS



Workshop IV:

### HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT IN PREPARATION FOR NEW JERSEY STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENTS (NJSLA)

Office of Humanities

Workshop V:

### HOW TO HAVE DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS WITH CHILDREN



Family Support  
Organization of Essex  
County

FREE GIFT RAFFLES

REGISTER HERE



For more information, contact Mr. Devone at: [devoneba@orange.k12.nj.us](mailto:devoneba@orange.k12.nj.us)

To register, visit:

<https://bit.ly/3HWfX3f>

or visit the district  
website at:

[www.orange.k12.nj.us](http://www.orange.k12.nj.us)



# Breakout Session

What is your vision of the PTO at your child's school?

What would encourage you to be more engaged in the school PTO?

What are some challenges/barriers that prohibit you from being involved at your school's PTO?

# Office of Innovation & Community Engagement

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## District Social Media

**Facebook:** Orange Public School District

**Twitter:** @ops\_district

**Instagram:** opsdistrict

**YouTube:** Orange Public School District

## References

Epstein, J. L. (2011). *School, Family and Community Partnerships*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Henderson, A. T. et al. (2007). *Beyond the Bake Sale*. New York, NY: New Press.

<http://www.ptotoday.com>