

Parent-Teacher Support Groups

PTAs (Parent Teacher Associations) and PTSAs (Parent Teacher Student Associations) make up the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the United States. A not-for-profit association of parents, educators, students, and community members, the PTA encourages parental and public involvement in public schools. PTAs provide members with parent education, leadership training, and a powerful voice of advocacy on behalf of all children. PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) is an independent group which also supports children and educational issues.

Volunteers in Public Schools

Studies have shown that children whose parents are involved at school have a greater self-esteem, a more positive attitude toward school, improved performance, and better behavior. School volunteer programs benefit all participants. Parent volunteers have a greater understanding of the educational process while receiving direct satisfaction of helping children succeed. School staff receive a helping hand, while the community reaps the reward of millions of dollars of work provided free.

Volunteer opportunities are everywhere, from helping in classrooms/special areas, chaperoning on field trips, tutoring/mentoring, to holding leadership positions in parent organizations/advisory councils. Chaperoning on overnight trips and/or serving as a band adjunct requires fingerprinting. To volunteer, fill out an online volunteer application and have your government issued ID with photograph scanned into our Raptor Visitor Management System. Once approved, your application will be valid for one school year, through June 30. For more information, contact your school's volunteer coordinator or the Volunteer/Partnership Programs Department at 386-734-7190 ext. 38379.

School Advisory Council (SAC)

Each school annually elects a School Advisory Council (SAC) to share responsibility for supporting the school's continuous improvement. This advisory group is made up of the principal, teachers, support staff, parents, business partners, and students (high school only).

The SAC role is:

- Prioritizing the needs of the school
- Developing strategies for improving the areas of need
- Developing a plan for measuring the results of the School Improvement Plan (SIP)
- Assisting in the preparation and evaluation of the SIP
- Assisting in the preparation of the school's annual budget
- Deciding how to spend the SAC funds to meet the SIP goals

Contact a school administrator if you are interested in serving on your school's advisory council.

