

QUESTION: WHY PTA? ANSWER: WE'RE DIFFERENT!

PTA.....

- Proven child advocacy association for more than 100 years
- Established relationship and common goals with associations representing administrators and teachers at the state level
- Administrators get connected through *Get an A with PTA – Superintendent News and The Principal's Office*
- Protects and preserves public education and its funding
- National Standards for Family-School Partnerships
- Voice for all children at the national, state and local levels for on average less than 50 cents per month or \$5.00 per year
- Visible presence in Washington, DC, and Austin, Texas, advocating for public education, administrators, educators and the health, safety and welfare of children
- Significant monetary support for local campuses and school districts
- Dollars raised are balanced with programs and services that make a difference for students, parents and caregivers
- Emphasis on the arts (National Reflections contest) and the environment (One World Challenge)
- School administrators and PTA are a team underscored by principals serving and participating on the Local PTA Board
- Infrastructure supports Local PTAs to protect administrators' valuable time
- Volunteer support at least 40 hours per week, 800-TALK-PTA or www.txpta.org

Parent Teacher "Others"

- Fund raising a primary focus with family engagement secondary
- Dues, not a significant source of income, stay locally but there is no voice on federal and state legislation
- Approval for use of funds less structured, but administrators' individual accountability in the event of transactions being questioned becomes greater
- Regular occurrences of PT "Others" operating as a nonprofit absent of IRS approval and without school administration knowledge
- Less emphasis on parent education and programs for students
- No parent group urgency regarding issues that are critical for administrators like funding for public education and class sizes
- Isolated entity with no support at another level for gaining nonprofit tax exemption status and financial management guidance
- Paperwork and costs significant for seeking nonprofit status
- Greater possibility of financial glitches by volunteers without training and financial guidance
- Infrastructure requires more hands on involvement by administrators
- Decentralized operation despite the growing complexity of operating and maintaining a nonprofit association in good standing

"I would rather have 100 engaged parents than \$100 any day."

-Principal

