

What Special Education PTA Representatives Do

This person represents the concerns of parents of children in special education to the greater PTA and may also consider doing some of the following:

- **Funnel information to parents:**
 - Distribute flyers featuring upcoming programs around the area to parents (with the permission of your school's principal)
 - Create a "New Parent Packet" to give to parents who are new to your school or whose child has been identified for special education services.
- **Parent Groups:**
 - Hold monthly meetings at your house.
 - Invite your Parent Ombudsman.
- **Recruit other parents to work with you:**
 - Send a letter introducing yourself to all the special ed parents in your school. One committee got the school office to address the envelopes for them (since the information is confidential).
 - Set up a booth at Back to School nights and other parent events. Put out a sign up sheet.
 - Start an email distribution list.
 - Have support group meetings and not just committee meetings
Have meetings in your home.
 - Ask the school staff to send home fliers in the backpacks of students with IEP's (or to all students).
 - Anticipate PTA newsletter deadlines to get meetings announced that way. The deadline for September could be in July.
 - Request that a special education committee line be added to the volunteer survey that parents fill out at the beginning of the school year.
- **Library:**
 - Start a parenting library.
 - Work with the librarian on a display of books about people with disabilities.
 - Work with the Parent Resource Center to develop a collection of core books.
 - Ask the PTA for a budget for books.
 - Create a literature rack or kiosk in the school office.
- **Scholarships:**
 - Lobby your PTSA to fund special education scholarships for graduating students.
- **Parent workshops/conferences**
 - Send out information about parent conferences.

- Invite PEATC to speak to your parents.
- Get together with other schools in your division/pyramids/area to give joint speaker forums.
 - Carpool to Parent Resource Center programs.
 - Ask one of your school's special education teachers to speak.
- Speaker on the IDEA 2004 reauthorization
- "Advanced IEP" workshop
- Career Center presentation to parents on college planning for students with disabilities.
- Have showings of Mel Levine's Developing Minds video series.
- **Newsletters:**
 - Write articles for the PTA newsletter about:
 - Special education at your school
 - Special programs, centers in your school
 - Transition to your school (secondary schools can submit this article to their feeder school's newsletters)
 - Transition out of your school
 - Start a separate newsletter to go home to all parents about special education.
- **Web Site:**
 - Create a special education section of your PTA web site.
- **Student education about inclusion:**
 - Organize events for **Inclusive Schools Week**.
- **ESOL:**
 - Distribute a video on special education in Spanish to parents of ESOL students.
 - Work with the Parent Liaison to help them with special education issues among parents who do not speak English well
- **Keep a notebook of your activities to pass on to your successor.**