

# A Strong Parent Voice + New Engagement Ideas = Student Success

Susan Hans, President of Ohio PTA

Ann Bohman, President of Families Are Important LLC

Amy Weinberg, Manager, Programs and Partnerships,  
National PTA



# Session Objectives

- Define transformative family engagement and see PTA's new initiatives in the field
- Discover Ohio PTA's model for developing more effective parent representation and participation
- Discuss what those empowered parents can do to foster student success



# Family Engagement Matters

Students whose parents are involved are more likely to...

Earn higher grades and test scores

Pass their classes

Attend school regularly

Have better social skills

Graduate and go on to postsecondary education

See: USDOE Partners in Education: Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family–School Partnerships



# PTA Framework

## National Standards for Family-School Partnerships



[PTA.org/excellence](https://pta.org/excellence)



# Center for Family Engagement



We aim **to increase demand for transformative family engagement** among PTA members and leaders, policymakers, and educators **by building and supporting grassroots parent leaders** to champion transformative family engagement practices and policies.

A National PTA® Initiative

The  
Center *for* Family  
Engagement™

**PTA**  
everychild.onevoice.®



# Current Focus

- Research/Best Practices
- Statewide Leadership Pilot
- National Fellows
- ESSA
- Family Engagement Centers/Funding



# A Shared Effort

When parents and education officials are equally respected partners in facilitating student success...

The result is community and culturally appropriate family engagement programs that meet the needs of every student.





# Why Professional Development for Parent Leaders?

As the state level parent voice, we wanted more effective participation through

- Increased respect for parent leaders
- Broader representation
- Access to our members' expertise





# Ohio PTA System

A model featuring...

- Preparation and education
- Ongoing support
- Evaluation

that is evolving and adaptable for multiple levels and situations.



# Preparation

- Issue education
- Committee/governance structure
- Challenges
- Meeting Protocol



# Issue Education

- Resolutions and position statements
- Background information
- Past materials from the committee
- Materials from related committees
- Survey members/parents



# Committee/Governance Structure

- Purpose
- Scope
- Other stakeholders/participants
- Use of output



# Challenges for Parent Leaders

- Location
- Meeting schedule
- Education jargon
- Cost reimbursement



# Meeting Protocol

## Format

- Formal parliamentary procedure
- Agenda, minutes
- Informal discussions
- Internet use/availability



# Ongoing Support

- Post-Meeting updates
- Lifeline(s)
- Additional resources/input
- Manage expectations
- Post-committee debrief





# Education Organizations Takeaways

Are you providing parents...

- A welcoming environment?
- Background information/resources?
- A meeting schedule inclusive of all committee members?




# Education Organization Takeaways

Are you providing parents...

- Equitable cost reimbursement?
- Feedback to members on use of output?
- Feedback to parent group leader?





Empowered parent leaders who are ready to be an effective voice...How can you involve them in your family engagement efforts?

# Contact Us

**Ohio PTA**

**president@ohiopta.org**

**National PTA**

**familyengagement@pta.org**