



Is the Special Needs PTA for me? Frequently asked questions

1. Does my child have to be severely disabled to benefit from this group?

A: Absolutely not! In fact, you don't even have to have a child with special needs to join our PTA. We have parents or caregivers who join to simply learn more about different abilities of some children. We also have support staff that have joined to provide information and to learn more from parents about certain disabilities so they can take that information back to their schools and classrooms to become better educators for all students.

2. My child has ADHD. Is that a "special need"?

A: Many kinds of different abilities are represented with our PTA. The "label" your child may or may not have been given is not as important as the need for information on how you can best help your child and your family. "Special Needs" is such a broad term and can be used to describe anything that might benefit your child. We have families that have children with ADHD, low muscle tone, autism, Asperger's Syndrome, Down Syndrome, hearing impairments, food allergies and many other needs. You will find that regardless of the "label", we all face unique challenges as we raise and educate our children. No one understands these challenges better than parents who have "been there".

3. We've kept our child's diagnosis pretty quiet. If I join, will other parents in my school or my child's peers know about his/her diagnosis/disability?

A: No one needs to know why you have joined the Special Needs PTA unless YOU tell them. Disclosing a diagnosis or revealing the specifics of your child's disability is strictly voluntary. We have a member directory, but you have the opportunity to opt out of being included in that directory if you choose to.

4. I already belong to my school's PTA. I really don't have time to devote to another PTA.

A: It's great that you've already joined your school PTA! We encourage you to be involved within your own school's PTA as that is where your child goes to school. Joining our PTA does not require the same time commitment that a school PTA does. We don't have the same needs as a school PTA and therefore our volunteer needs are minimal. We don't participate in the same programs that school PTAs participate in (i.e. Reflections, Helping Hand, Red Ribbon Week, etc.) because we are a district wide PTA. You will find that any fundraising efforts usually involve going out to dinner with your family at our partnering restaurants.

5. Do I have to join the PTA to come to your meetings?

A: No, anyone can come to our meetings. In fact, we encourage you to come and see what we are all about. If you like what you see and hear and think you could benefit from the support and guidance from other parents as well as district administration that are present at every meeting, we'd love for you to become a voting member of our PTA.

For more information about our PTA, visit our website at: www.ipsd.org/ipsn