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2012-13 National PTA Theme
*"Build Your Child's Tomorrow in
Today's PTA"*

STEPS to Become a Middle School PTSA

- **Why should students be part of the PTA?** Opportunities are available to develop leadership skills, communicate with policy-makers and contribute to their schools and to their communities.
- **PTA Board** must make a Motion to amend bylaws to change to PTSA. Proposed bylaws amendment is posted (on web site and communications) 30 days for membership review and then a vote to adopt by a majority of those present and voting. NOTE: Only one amendment is needed - the one to change the name of the Local Unit which will be attached to the bylaws upon approval and will apply throughout the entire bylaws document. Before voting, PTA should meet with the principal to discuss the benefits of including students in the membership and to share goals, thoughts and ideas to build leadership and to grow membership.
- **Once the bylaws amendment** is approved by the state Bylaws Committee, the name is immediately changed on the state database and notification is sent to the District Director. The National ID# stays the same.
- **The new PTSA would** need to notify the IRS and their bank of the change. Best to continue to use up checks until time to re-order. Notify the state PTA if the local unit already has a sales tax exemption as a new one may need to be prepared. Review and share with your board the "PTA Money Matters Quick-Reference Guide" provided by National PTA in your "Back to School Kit."
- **Communicate** with current members, students, staff, and community members about becoming a PTSA and encourage participation. Enroll in *Just Between Friends* and utilize Facebook and Twitter to communicate and connect with students. For more information about these programs, go to www.vapta.org or www.pta.org.
- **Update** your PTA information brochure, membership forms, Welcome Parents letter, web site, and Facebook page with the new PTSA logo (available on state web site). Provide membership forms and PTSA materials in school office and provide translations of materials when possible. Review www.vapta.org/membership for new student programs to recognize and promote student membership.
- **Promote** student involvement as an elected officer (cannot hold president or treasurer office) or appointed committee chair. Work with the Student Government Association to exchange ideas and have grade level student representatives on the PTSA executive board.
- **Market** your PTA's past accomplishments and funding goals of new programs for current year. Provide specifics to engage student members in areas of interest to them.
- **Be relevant** in your school community by advocating for all students to achieve their full potential by receiving a quality education. The Voice of Membership does make a difference in Today's PTA!

Virginia PTA website (www.vapta.org) National PTA website (www.pta.org)