

Collaboration and Coalitions - - Are you really working together?

As a PTA leader, it is highly likely that you will be approached by another organization, candidate, or campaign to work together. Being “pro-kids” or “pro-schools” doesn’t necessarily create a “win-win” for your PTA. As we all know, everyone’s time is precious and it is important to focus on objectives that you’ve defined as important to your members and consistent with the Mission and Objects of the PTA. Here are guidelines for your consideration:

If the group is working on a **statewide effort**, contact Oregon PTA to see if the group is a cooperating partner. Collaboration on statewide efforts first begins with the state organization.

Bottom line - - **is the group attempting to recruit your members away from your PTA?** PTA is only as strong as our members. Any effort your organization makes should energize and strengthen volunteers and membership.

Important points (IRS rules) to keep in mind:

- As a 501c3, PTAs are non-partisan organizations.
- You may attend town hall meetings, organize forums and debates.
- PTAs may endorse issues.
- PTAs may NOT endorse candidates.
- PTAs may NOT give money to political candidates.
- PTAs may give money to an ISSUE campaign. (please see officer’s manual)
- PTAs may not give money to a 501c4 or political action committee (PAC) that endorses candidates

If another organization asks to come and speak or work with your PTA:

- Do you know what they are going to present?
- Do you know what they are going to ask of your members?
- Is this group or organization going to “ask” your members to join or start a new organization?
- How do their goals, “asks”, and tactics fit with your PTA?
- Will this organization work in cooperation & collaboration?
- What’s in it for them?
- What’s in it for your members and for the kids?

It is important that you honor your members and your organization.

PTA has a policy not to share or sell membership information.

And when in doubt, feel free to contact any of the Oregon PTA Board members or office with your questions.

We are here to help your organization to grow.

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