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# Parent Support Groups

*for teachers and staff*

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*Parent Teacher Associations ◊ Parent Teacher Organizations ◊ Music Booster Clubs ◊ Alumni Groups ◊ Scholarship Committees ◊ Parent sponsored Senior Trip Committees ◊ Athletic Booster Clubs ◊ Charitable Organizations ◊ Summer Athletic Teams*

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Parent support groups, such as PTAs, PTO's and Parent Booster Groups, in cooperation with the school administrative staff, can be wonderful assets in enriching the school climate with volunteer help and donations. The Principal at the local school building is usually their first point of contact. It's important for parent support groups to remember that they are there to complement the school's programs and not interfere with the decisions made at the building by the Principal or Athletic Director or the Central Administration.

PTA and PTSA are proprietary names and are registered service marks. Groups may only use PTA/PTSA if they are registered with the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and the Washington State PTA. They are a local, self-governing, nonprofit, and usually tax exempt membership association with their own set of bylaws, elected officers and membership.

Parent Booster Clubs are also separate entities from the school and school district. They generally support and supplement the athletic programs of a specific school although they can also support other school activities.

Although these groups are not governed by the school district, they should be recognized by the local school board as "real" organizations. Oftentimes, there is a main PTA/PTO/Booster group that is a recognized 501 c-3 and other smaller support groups should fall under their guidelines. Parent support groups must also follow local school district policies and procedures, especially when renting district facilities, gifting donations, or involving student groups. Purchasing of a liability insurance policy is highly recommended, and may be required by school board policy.

Parent support groups need to be aware of equity issues when donating money and/or equipment to the school's athletic teams. Title IX issues for equity come into play when donations favor one segment of athletics over another, i.e. boy's sports over girl's sports.

When parent support groups and school administration work together in a positive way, the benefits that come back to the school program and the students are valuable and rewarding.