



**AWARDS  
REFERENCE  
GUIDE**

Updated: January 2021



## AWARDS CHAIR'S REFERENCE GUIDE

In addition to this reference guide the awards chair should:

- Review all information on the Alabama PTA website [www.alabamapta.org](http://www.alabamapta.org) and the National PTA website [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).
- Check with your PTA president for any written materials from National PTA.
- Be familiar with your PTA Bylaws
- Verify with your PTA president that your name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address have been submitted to Alabama PTA.

### **PTA IN GOOD STANDING**

A PTA must be in good standing in order to receive the annual local PTA packet to participate in scholarship, grant, awards, and any other PTA programs. A local PTA in good standing:

- Adheres to the purposes and basic policies of PTA.
- Remits dues to Alabama PTA by dates designated in PTA bylaws with at least one remittance of state and national dues by December 1. Remittances made on or before March 1 determine voting delegate representation at state convention and eligibility for awards.
- Has current officer information on file in the Alabama PTA office.
- And if located within an organized council, follows adopted guidelines of that council in paying dues and/or participating in other programs.

### **The PTA Mission**

The mission of the National PTA is three-fold:

- To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community and before governmental agencies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children; *and*
- To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; *and*
- To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

### **The Objects of PTA**

To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship

- To raise the standards of home life
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school so parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Alabama PTA recognizes the importance of partnerships between home and school and will recognize individuals and organizations that have exhibited a strong commitment to improving these partnerships at their annual convention each year. Award applications may be duplicated as needed. When no application is determined by judges to meet the criteria of the award, recognition will not be presented. No award will be presented for the same program two years in a row. Award applications sent to Alabama PTA for judging become the property of Alabama PTA. Award applications must include the appropriate application form and be submitted to Alabama PTA by March 1. Activities from the spring of the previous school year may be included.

### TIPS FOR AWARD SUBMISSION

A good application is one that uses descriptive language that details the project/program rather than giving conclusions. For example, instead of saying "parent night was a success," descriptive language tells why it was a success, i.e., "One hundred parents attended parents' night, whereas in the past no more than 50 parents have ever attended. As a result, we have 20 new PTA members." Descriptive language also avoids just making lists such as, "Our PTA held a health fair, a spaghetti night, and a parents' night." Instead it informs the reader what the PTA accomplished and why: "We held a health fair in our community because the majority of children and adults have not had hearing or eye tests. Three hundred (300) children and adults were tested, and 35 were found to need follow-up. PTA is now working with the hospital association to provide that follow up for those who cannot afford it." Space is limited, so choose words carefully. Award applications should address local activities supported or sponsored by the PTA and not the activities of the school staff.

### OUTSTANDING PTA AWARDS

#### **PHOEBE APPERSON HEARST NATIONAL PTA EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP NATIONAL AWARD**

This award recognizes a PTA whose collaborative efforts with parents, educators, and community members promote parent involvement with ongoing programs that encourage student success. Based on the National Standards for Family School Partnerships, this award provides PTAs with an opportunity to receive national recognition as well as to share outstanding programs with other PTAs. Alabama PTA will submit the winner of the Phoebe Apperson Hearst National PTA Excellence in Education Partnership Award to National PTA for national level judging. All PTAs are encouraged to submit applications for The National Standards for Family-School Partnerships awards and Phoebe Apperson Hearst National PTA Excellence in Education Partnership Award. The winner of the Phoebe Apperson Hearst National PTA Excellence in Education Partnership Award, which encompasses all six of The National Standards for Family-School Partnerships, will not be awarded with any of the individual National Standards for Family-School Partnerships Awards.

**Award: Plaque**

**Grade Division: One statewide winner**

#### **FANNY MITCHELL NELSON AWARD-NATIONAL AWARD**

This award also recognizes a local PTA that excels in promoting parent/family involvement. The winner of the Fanny Mitchell Nelson Award is **NOT** eligible for The National Standards for Family-School Partnerships awards. There is no national level judging for this award.

**Award: Plaque**

**Grade Division: One state-wide winner**

**The same PTA cannot win both of the above awards.**

**Alabama PTA has switched to digital submission. The following awards must be submitted digitally to [ALPTA.awards@gmail.com](mailto:ALPTA.awards@gmail.com). The link for the application is listed after each award.**

### OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARDS

Strong PTAs must have the cooperation and support of parents, teachers, principals, and superintendents who support PTA activities. Alabama PTA recognizes educators who put forth special effort to work with PTA through its Outstanding Educator Awards. Submitting an application shows PTA's appreciation and provides an opportunity to recognize that person locally. **Past winners of any Educator Award are not eligible to be re-nominated for that same award for 5 years.**

**Outstanding Teacher Award: Plaque**

Categories: Elementary, Middle/Junior High, Secondary

Criteria: Must be nominated by the PTA of the school that he/she serves. Paraprofessionals are not eligible for this award.

Application link: <https://www.alabamapta.org/pta-awards>

**Outstanding Administrator Award: Plaque**

Categories: Elementary, Middle/Junior High, Secondary  
Criteria: Must be nominated by the PTA of the school the/she serves.  
Application link: <https://www.alabamapta.org/pta-awards>

**Outstanding Superintendent Award: Plaque**

Criteria: Must be nominated by a council or three PTAs.  
Application link: <https://www.alabamapta.org/pta-awards>

**Outstanding Support Staff Award: Plaque**

Categories: Elementary, Middle/Junior High, Secondary  
Criteria: Must be nominated by the PTA of the school that he/she serves. Designated for non-certified members of the staff whose support/efforts help encourage and support family-school partnerships. IE: office, custodial, and cafeteria staff, librarians, etc.  
Application link: <https://www.alabamapta.org/pta-awards>

**LOCAL PTA MEMBERSHIP AWARDS**

**(All awards for committee and council use)**

The following awards are determined by the Alabama PTA office and do not require an application by the local PTA. The only exception is the Golden Apple Award which requires submission of the Golden Apple form and list. Only PTAs in good standing are eligible for membership awards. All deadlines refer to a postmark on or before the deadline date. New PTAs in their first year are not eligible for membership awards based on the previous year's membership. Please remember to report your enrollment by September 30 to qualify for some awards,

**LOCAL PTA AWARDS**

**EARLY BIRD AWARD - September 30** - Certificate awarded to all PTAs reporting 50% of the previous year's membership. You do not need to fill out an application for this award. Members must be entered into member Hub by unit.

**GOLDEN APPLE AWARD - September 30** - (Please see the top sheet for use when turning in dues for this award. You can submit one check for both Early Bird and Golden Apple but you must include the necessary paperwork. (check postmarked by September 30, Application with principals signature and a list of members and emails entered into Member Hub).

Certificate awarded to all principals whose PTAs report 100% faculty membership. Faculty is defined as full-time certified personnel. Part-time employees and non-certified personnel are encouraged to join but are not required to qualify for the Golden Apple Award. Principals must be members of their local units.

**GOLD LEAF AWARD - December 1** - Certificate awarded to all PTAs equaling or surpassing the previous year's membership. This is determined by Alabama PTA.

**OAK TREE AWARD - March 1** - Certificate awarded to all PTAs reporting a 20% increase over the previous year's membership. This is determined by Alabama PTA.

**100% MEMBERSHIP AWARD - March 1** - Certificate awarded to all PTAs reporting 100% membership (one paid member for each student enrolled at the beginning of the second month of school). This is determined by Alabama PTA.

**100% MEMBERSHIP CONSECUTIVE YEARS AWARD - March 1** - Plaque awarded to all PTAs reporting 100% membership beginning with the fifth year of consecutive 100% membership.

**BIG TOPPER AWARD- March 1** - Plaque awarded to all PTAs reporting 1,000 or more paid members.

**LARGEST PTA AWARD - March 1** - Plaque awarded to one PTA in each division with the greatest number of members. Divisions are elementary, middle/junior high, high school.

**OUTSTANDING MEMBERSHIP AWARD - March 1** - Plaque awarded to one PTA in each division with the largest membership percentage based on enrollment.

Division I 1-300 students

Division II 301-600 students

Division III 601-900 students

Division IV 901-1200 students

Division V 1201-up students

## **COUNCIL AWARDS**

**OUTSTANDING COUNCIL AWARD** – This category is reserved for councils supporting local units.

Application link: <https://www.alabamapta.org/pta-awards>

**Award: Plaque One statewide winner**

**Grade Division: One statewide winner**

**HELEN TALBOT MEMBERSHIP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** - Certificate awarded to each council that has all member PTAs remitting dues to Alabama PTA postmarked by March 1.

**COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AWARD** - Certificate awarded to the council with the highest percentage of increase in total membership (as reported by member PTAs) over the previous year's total membership, submitted to Alabama PTA postmarked by March 1.

### **LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AWARD**

**Award: Plaque**

**Grade Division: One statewide winner**

*Criteria:* Consistent and effective legislative activities based on the following:

1. Legislative chair appointed.
2. Legislative workshops attended.
3. Network for contacting public officials established and used.
4. PTA members educated about legislative issues.
5. Local, state and/or national legislative program participation.

### **National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships**

These awards will recognize local PTAs whose programs and activities are based on one or more of the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships. The six awards standards are (1) Welcoming All Families, (2) Communicating Effectively, (3) Supporting Student Success, (4) Speaking up for Every Child, (5) Sharing Power, and (6) Collaborating with the Community.

**Award:** One plaque per standard in each category.

**Grade Divisions:** Elementary, Middle/Junior High, Senior High (schools with multiple grades. i.e. K-12, must specify the grade division for which they are applying.)

When planning PTA activities, consider projects in each of the six Standards to ensure a comprehensive approach to building successful partnerships between family, school and community. PTA projects should supplement and enhance those sponsored by the school. Some projects or activities may address more than one Standard, such as a project that addresses parenting skills and student learning, or a project that combines volunteering and collaborating with community.

Read each standard. There are suggestion of programs that align with each one listed below the definition. Complete the Awards application; submit digitally to [ALPTA.awards@gmail.com](mailto:ALPTA.awards@gmail.com). Local units may apply in multiple categories. Remember awards are based on activities supported or sponsored by the PTA and not the activities of the school staff.

#### **Standard 1: Welcoming all families into the school community**

**Definition:** Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.

- Family nights on math and literacy
- Host an Open House or Multicultural event
- Family movie night
- Back to school carnival

#### **Standard 2: Communicating Effectively**

**Definition:** Families and school staff engage in regular, meaningful communication about student learning.

- Parent Workshops on what is your child's learning style
- PTA newsletters, websites, phone trees, Email distribution system
- Provide student planners, weekly folders

### **Standard 3: Supporting Student Success**

Definition: Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

- Family workshops on planning for college or career fairs
- Sponsor wellness and fitness programs
- Student versus parent math/science or trivial competitions

### **Standard 4: Speaking Up for Every Child**

Definition: Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

- Attend school board meetings
- Appoint a legislative representative who will attend your school board meetings and make a report to your membership.
- Provide the contact information on the decision makers and provide updates on legislative issues
- Invite your local or state elected officials to speak on a panel

### **Standard 5: Sharing Power**

Definition: Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

- Host a Kids ID program to address the issue of the dangers of strangers
- Host an informational night for parents on how to prepare your child for high school
- Host an informational session on what are the requirements for graduating from high school
- Show how parents and teachers can promote internet safety at home and school

### **Standard 6: Collaborating with the Community**

Definition: Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

- Partner with a sister PTA that is struggling; invite them to your event than assist them with orchestrating their own.
- Partner with other nonprofits agencies like United Way and Junior Achievement for youth leadership programs
- Collaborate with local churches and community organizations to provide quality after-school programs.
- Sponsor voter registration drives, mock elections or community recycling projects
- Host joint community PTA meetings with the elementary, middle/junior high and high schools to showcase what each offers.

For more information about the National Standards and PTA programs that promote family-school partnerships, visit [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).