

Baltimore County Council



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The Benefits of PTA Over Unaffiliated Parent Groups

- **PTAs and unaffiliated parent groups (like PTOs) run properly/legally are similar:**
 - Incorporated non-profits with elected officers
 - Bylaws and Procedures, Roberts' Rules of Order
 - General Membership meetings and minutes; board meetings and minutes
 - Insurance to protect organization and leaders
 - Legal/financial requirements (IRS 990, MD Personal Property Report, MD Charitable Solicitations Act filing, banking in organization's name, treasurer's reports, annual financial reviews (audits))
- **Benefits of PTA:**
 - **Local PTA units are part of something bigger** (not just about fundraising and party planning!)
 - **National PTA: oldest and largest child advocacy organization in country**; legislative powerhouse on Capitol Hill
 - **Free State PTA:** state-level public school and child advocacy
 - **PTA is official parent group-partner of Baltimore County Public Schools**
 - Much-needed support, training, resources, and oversight from PTA Council, Free State PTA, and National PTA
 - National PTA membership benefits/discounts; benefits from Givebacks (free PTA management tool)
 - Reasonable insurance (\$226/year through Free State PTA and AIM Insurance)
- **PTA Council of Baltimore County:**
 - Speaks at Board of Education (BOE) meetings as stakeholder, speaks for 1,000s of members at County meetings and in Annapolis
 - Regular contact with BCPS leadership; BCPS liaison sits on Council board
 - Invited to school system task forces and work groups
 - Seat on School Board Nominating Commission to appoint BOE members
- **Only "Cons" of PTA:**
 - Portion of membership dues collected by PTA units goes to Free State PTA and National PTA, but support, resources, oversight, and reasonable insurance make up for this
 - PTA Council collects dues since it has no source of income to pay for support it provides to units; Council dues are \$50 in total per unit per year