

Baltimore County Council

PTA[®]

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www.bcptacouncil.org

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 (NPTA): oldest and largest child advocacy organization in country;** legislative powerhouse on Capitol Hill; **GRANTS**
 - **Free State PTA (FSPTA):** state-level public school and child advocacy
 - **PTA is official parent-group partner of Baltimore County Public Schools (Policy 1210)**
 - **Nominal membership dues** to National PTA and Free State PTA (\$5.25/member/year, total amount due) pay for much-needed support, state-of-the-art training, resources, oversight and the **highest levels of advocacy** from PTA Council, FSPTA, and NPTA
 - Dues-paying members (membership in any PTA is open to anyone) have a **voice and a vote** on issues with far-reaching impacts
 - National PTA **membership benefits/discounts;** benefits from GiveBacks (free PTA management tool)
 - **Extremely reasonable group insurance** (\$226/year) by belonging to FSPTA
- **PTA Council of Baltimore County:**
 - Speaks at Board of Education (BOE) meetings as BCPS affiliate, speaks for 1,000s of members at County meetings and in Annapolis
 - Regular contact with BCPS leadership; BCPS representative sits on Council board
 - Invited to school system task forces and work groups
 - Seat on School Board Nominating Commission to appoint BOE members

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