



# Every Child in Focus

## How PTAs Can Better Support American Indian Families

National PTA's Every Child in Focus is centered on strengthening family engagement in schools by celebrating important cultural distinctions and achievements, while highlighting solutions to potential educational issues. This November, we turn our focus to American Indian families and the unique challenges they face in supporting student success.

Based on National PTA's Standards for Family-School Partnerships, let's explore ways PTAs can welcome and support American Indian families in the school community.



Standard 1: Welcoming All Families into the School Community	Standard 2: Communicating Effectively	Standard 3: Supporting Student Success	Standard 4: Speaking Up for Every Child	Standard 5: Sharing Power	Standard 6: Collaborating with Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite the entire family to school events. Work on building trusting, respectful relationships with every family.</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for the entire family to volunteer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite families to lead culturally relevant craft or art projects, like teaching traditional dances, building family totems, or writing family stories.</li> <li>• Work with tribal leaders to build the sense of community by informing your communication and outreach strategies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer frequent high quality learning experiences that engage the entire family.</li> <li>• Link all events to student learning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for culturally relevant curriculum.</li> <li>• Work with school staff to hold meetings to discuss educational planning so families know their children are on the right track.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold brainstorming meetings on school-wide issues to develop trusting relationships and build a sense of community.</li> <li>• Ask the families what issues are important to them and then work with them to raise those issues with school leaders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with tribal elders to reinforce the connection between multiple generations and young children's educational outcomes.</li> <li>• Plan events that engage the entire community, including local tribes.</li> </ul>