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Community/Non-Traditional PTAs Getting Started

Rationale for proposing a non-traditional PTA:

- It is not a traditional school where parents gather
- Regulations prohibit PTAs in the school system
- Interested parties may not have children in school, but support local, state and national children's issues
- Schools have not been welcoming of parents
- There are issues of control in the school system
- There is an injustice, pressing issue, problem that needs to be addressed. The issue of concern may not be specifically school-related, but rather family, neighborhood or community-related.
- The potential exists to broaden the impact of PTA and increase family engagement by bringing a larger group together, including community stakeholders and partners
- A group of individuals determine a need to form a unit that meets the criteria and promotes the mission of PTA

Key Action Steps

- Hold assessment with state leadership and/or NSRs (see other side)
- Develop chartering and communication plan (see other side)
- Make PTA presentation to group(s) with vote to organize as a PTA unit
- Identify leadership
- Develop bylaws (consider flexible, less restrictive models)

Assessment /consultation – (NSRs Available)

- Communicate with lead person or group to determine if PTA is best approach
- Assure that mission/vision of group aligns with PTA
- Assess feasibility and viability in terms of commitment, leadership, capacity to make positive short-term gains
- Assess state PTA's capacity to serve the community PTA. Get help were needed.
- Ensure plans to obtain dues, complete bylaws, leadership contact information and methods of ongoing contact

Chartering and Communication Recommendations for State Leadership

- Chartered as a unit under state and national regulations
- Ensure that Information, programs, etc. are provided to them as one unit
- Examine bylaws for possible conflicts when several groups are represented in one unit. Consider all alternatives to and around restrictive bylaws.
- Market community PTAs as an opportunity for PTA to be relevant to all parents of the community and to grow and foster diversify where appropriate.
- Promote community/non-traditional PTAs as 21st century model to engage parents and communities (meeting parents where they are).
- Examine win/lose impact on states and national PTA for membership, dues, credibility, visibility.
- Encourage representation from local schools, whether a parent organization is present or not.