

MJHS PTSA PTA VS PTO

PTSA PROS

What is PTA? Parent Teacher (Student) Association: A formal organization composed of parents, teachers and staff that is intended to facilitate parental participation in a school. The PTA is the oldest and largest child advocacy association in America.

Resources: Leadership development, grants to support initiatives, affiliation discounts, access to national database of programs and resources. Organization provides annual training for members.

PTSA CONS

PTAs are bound to the bylaws of the larger association and required to pay \$3.75 per membership to the state PTA.

Parent involvement and volunteer recruitment is increasingly challenging at the high school level and abiding by the strict PTA requirements continue to strain local organizations.

* MJHS has not utilized PTA resources and local council has not reached out to provide support or communications. Generally, information and resources have been accessible and adequate online.

**GA PTA and its board have been scrutinized by state members and National office this past year for their board actions and possible mishandling of funds. Entire districts are withholding dues and local PTAs have shared intent of dissolving their PTAs. Overall participation has been declining nationally.

PTO PROS

What is PTO? PTO (Parent Teacher Organization): An independent parent group; in other words, any non-PTA group. Many acronyms-such as HAS, PCC, PTO and more- fall under the independent group umbrella. PTOs are not bound by rules and guidelines set by national PTA.

Resources: Open source access to support and program ideas.

PTOs are not bound to guidelines and bylaws of PTA. All funds raised are kept by the PTO and no dues are paid to the state PTA or national PTA. PTOs can choose to form a non-profit and create their own bylaws. Goals and objectives are focused on the school's needs and interests. School's PTO can adopt bylaws that ensure appropriate management and financial accountability.

* MJHS PTSA already paid and established its own 501c3 status

** Liability insurance is offered to PTOs at competitive packages as PTA premiums

PTO CONS

- Need to create/adopt by-laws
- Executive Board titles, jobs and responsibilities need to be established and defined