

Sharing Power
PTA Standard 5

Beyond the Bake Sale Workshop
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**PTA National Standards for
Family-School Partnerships**

Standard 1: Welcoming All Families into the School Community

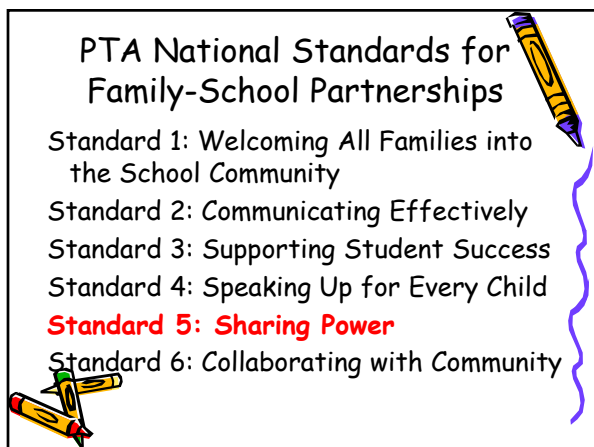
Standard 2: Communicating Effectively

Standard 3: Supporting Student Success

Standard 4: Speaking Up for Every Child

Standard 5: Sharing Power

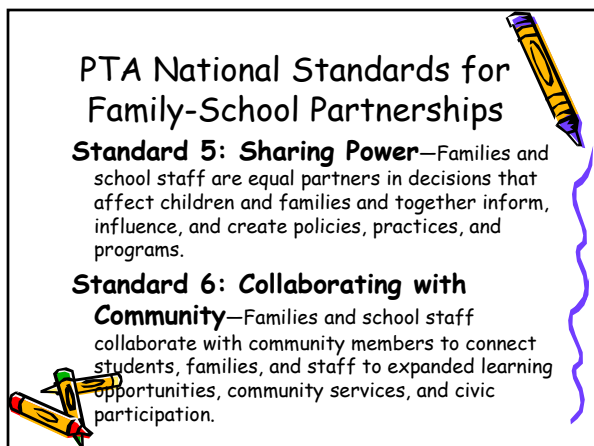
Standard 6: Collaborating with Community



**PTA National Standards for
Family-School Partnerships**

Standard 5: Sharing Power—Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

Standard 6: Collaborating with Community—Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.



Standard 5- Sharing Power

Families and school staff work together as full partners to create and influence policies, practices and programs that support student success.


Our School:	Rating				
	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Frequently
1. Has active PTA, PTO, or other parent organization.	1	2	3	4	5
2. Includes parent representatives on the school's advisory council, improvement team, or other committees.	1	2	3	4	5
3. Has parents represented on district-level advisory council and committees.	1	2	3	4	5
4. Involves parents in organized, ongoing, and timely ways in planning, reviewing, and improving school programs.	1	2	3	4	5
5. Involves parents in revising school and district curricula.	1	2	3	4	5
6. Includes parent leaders from all racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and other groups in the school.	1	2	3	4	5
7. Develops formal networks to link all families with their parent representatives.	1	2	3	4	5
8. Includes students (with parents) in decision-making groups.	1	2	3	4	5
9. Deals with conflict openly and respectfully.	1	2	3	4	5
10. Asks involved parents to make contact with parents who are less involved to solicit their ideas and report back to them.	1	2	3	4	5

Beyond the Bake Sale

The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships

Anne T. Henderson,
Karen L. Mapp, Vivian R. Johnson and Don Davies

The New Press, 2007
www.thenewpress.org/bakesale



PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

Standard 5: Sharing power—Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

Ideas, suggestions and examples related to this standard can be found on the following pages in Anne Henderson's book *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships*:

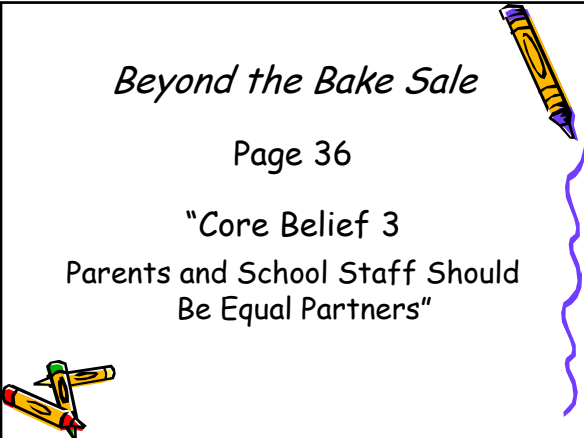
- p. 36 Core Belief 3: Parents and School Staff Should...
- p. 38 Suggested Steps for Action
- p. 142 Make the Rules Together
- p. 187 Who's in Charge Here Anyway?
- p. 188 Provide Workable Mechanisms for Teachers, Parents...
- p. 190 Preparing Parents to Become Effective Members...
- p. 193 Building the Leadership Capacity of Parent Associations
- p. 203 Parent Leadership Training Programs
- pp. 214-216 CHECKLIST

(Questions 1-9 and General Questions on pages 217-218)

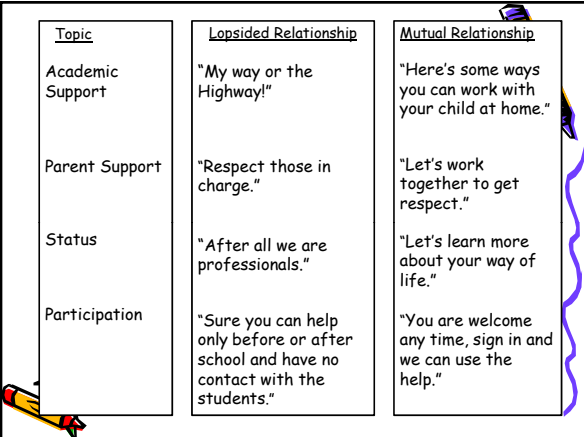
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"Core Belief 3
Parents and School Staff Should
Be Equal Partners"



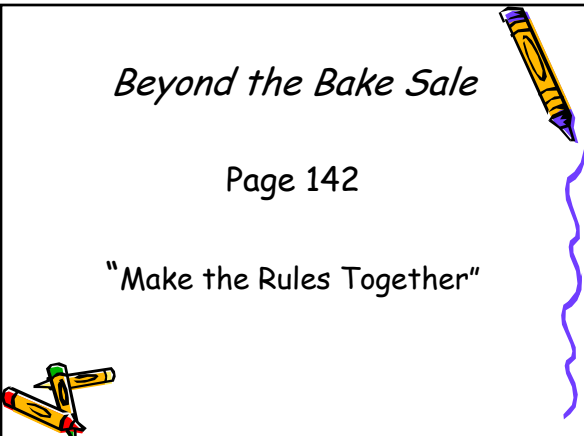
<u>Topic</u>	<u>Lopsided Relationship</u>	<u>Mutual Relationship</u>
Academic Support	"My way or the Highway!"	"Here's some ways you can work with your child at home."
Parent Support	"Respect those in charge."	"Let's work together to get respect."
Status	"After all we are professionals."	"Let's learn more about your way of life."
Participation	"Sure you can help only before or after school and have no contact with the students."	"You are welcome any time, sign in and we can use the help."



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"Make the Rules Together"



What are the "Hidden Rules" of your school?

- Are you welcomed as an equal partner by teachers?
- Are PTA meetings defined as Parent Involvement?
- Are preschoolers welcomed?
- Criticized for being late?
- Communication skills are not clear or proper?
- Are your teachers polite and look you in the eyes?
- Are you informed of the happenings in the school?



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"Provide Workable Mechanisms for Teachers, Parents and Students to Take Part in Decision Making"



Take Advantage of the Law

- Are you part of the development and approval of your school's compact and Title I policy?
- Are you informed about your school and district report card?
- Is your child's teacher explaining test results?



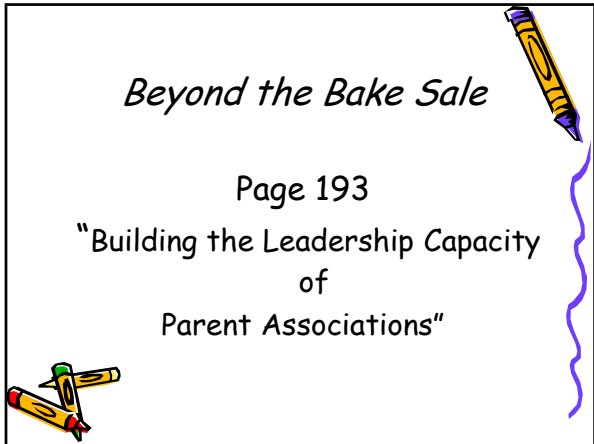
Do you know your options?



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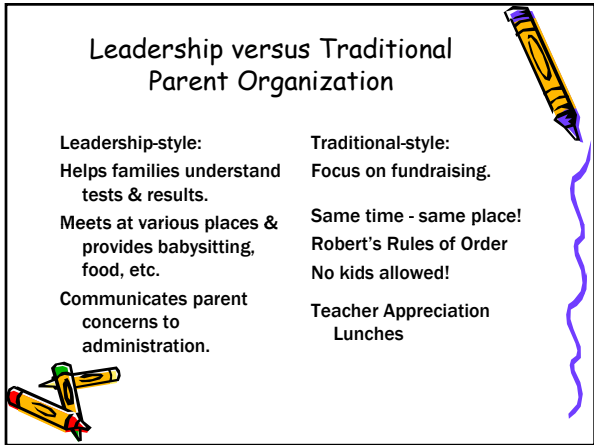
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"Building the Leadership Capacity
of
Parent Associations"



Leadership versus Traditional
Parent Organization

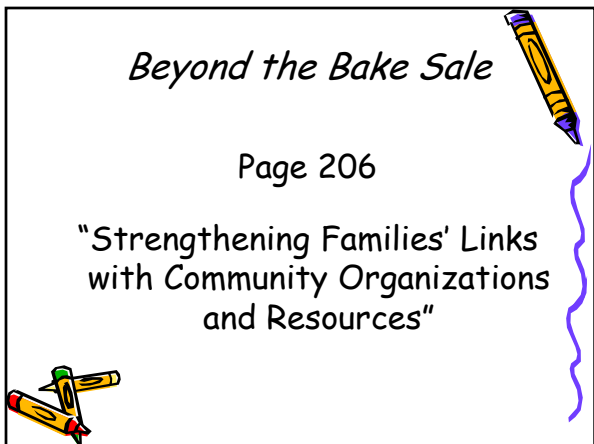
Leadership-style: Helps families understand tests & results. Meets at various places & provides babysitting, food, etc. Communicates parent concerns to administration.	Traditional-style: Focus on fundraising. Same time - same place! Robert's Rules of Order No kids allowed! Teacher Appreciation Lunches
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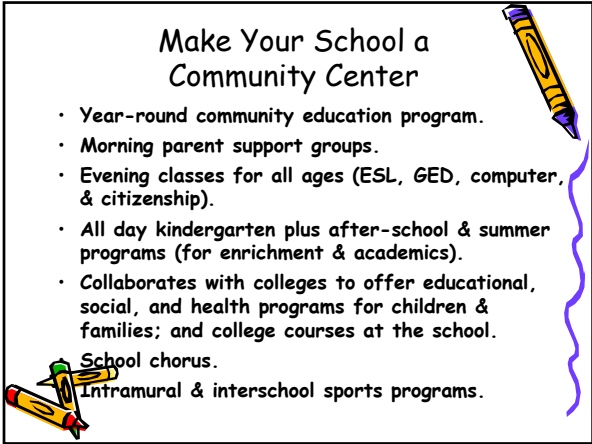
Page 206

"Strengthening Families' Links
with Community Organizations
and Resources"



Make Your School a Community Center

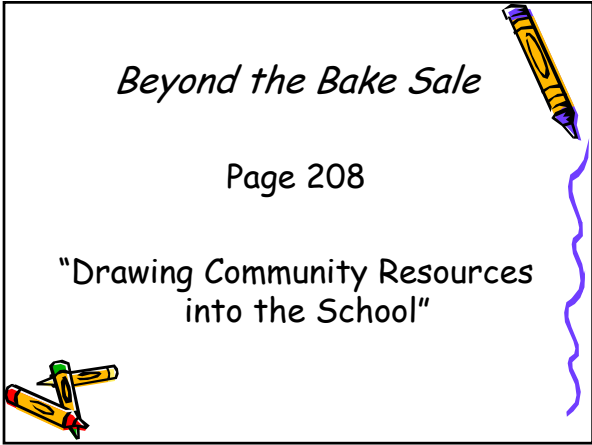
- Year-round community education program.
- Morning parent support groups.
- Evening classes for all ages (ESL, GED, computer, & citizenship).
- All day kindergarten plus after-school & summer programs (for enrichment & academics).
- Collaborates with colleges to offer educational, social, and health programs for children & families; and college courses at the school.
- School chorus.
- Intramural & interschool sports programs.



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"Drawing Community Resources into the School"



Potential Community Partners

Businesses	Local corporations
Labor unions	Legal service organizations
Hospitals	Senior center organizations
Libraries	Public housing projects
AA/Al-Anon	Social service agencies
Health agencies	Colleges & universities
Museums	Faith-based organizations
Service clubs	Advocacy organizations
Activist groups	Youth organizations
Non-profit groups	Mental health services
Cultural agencies	Doctors & Dentists



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STANDARD 5 CHECKLIST

How Well is Your School Sharing Power and Practicing Democracy?

Consulting Families About Decisions

- The school has a governance council that has a voice in all major decisions and that includes parent representatives elected by a broad base of parents.

Already doing this	Could do this easily	This will take time	This will be hard
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- Parents and community members sit on the principal selection committee.

Already doing this	Could do this easily	This will take time	This will be hard
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- The school does an annual survey of parents to get their ideas about programs and policies. The survey is co-designed and tallied by parents.

Already doing this	Could do this easily	This will take time	This will be hard
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Building a Strong, Broad-based Parent Organization

- The parent group is focused on improving achievement for all students.

Already doing this	Could do this easily	This will take time	This will be hard
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Discussion!

How are you involved in your child's school?
...and in your district?