

The 411 – New, Remodeled PTA Bylaws

Did you know that PTA Bylaws had a makeover? They are remodeled in three, main ways to make them more user friendly for unit, council and district leaders.

First, the text of the Standard Bylaws is less bulky with the number of pages reduced by almost one half. This was achieved by removing instructions for running a PTA. Instead, the information is housed online in the *California State PTA Toolkit* where it is more accessible as a searchable resource.

Similarly, documents embedded in the old bylaws such as the *Procedures for Bylaws Review* and *Instructions for Completing the Standard Bylaws* were taken out and will be posted on the State PTA website. That way, procedures and instructions for bylaws review can be downloaded and shared. And, the process involved in keeping these resources current is simplified.

Secondly, information in the Bylaws is streamlined and consolidated. As a result, there are fewer instances where the same information is repeated in different articles and sections of the Bylaws.

For example, details on officers' duties and those of committee chairpersons, plus the procedures for removing an officer or chairperson, is combined into one Article in the 2018 Bylaws.

Thirdly, the content of PTA bylaws is reorganized to help local leaders run their PTA more effectively. Best practices for maintaining financial records and required actions such as submitting budgets, audits, report forms and government filings are now listed together in an Article related to the executive board's responsibilities.

Reorganized content is apparent, too, when you look at the new Standing Rules. To give local leaders more flexibility in managing a PTA, items such as association meeting dates, authorized check signers, the amount for unbudgeted expenditures, titles for vice presidents and committee information are found in the Standing Rules. And, subtitles are added to the Standing Rules to make them easier to navigate.

In addition, for legal and organizational mandates, the language is updated. For instance, procedures and best practices for voting on motions and using email for notices to members are clarified in the new Bylaws.

Taken together, the changes in style and format for unit, council and district bylaws are designed to help PTA boards work smarter. The 2018 Bylaws will make it easier for PTA leaders, at all levels, to revise Bylaws and keep them current.

Questions? Contact:

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