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*124 schools designated as 2015-2017 National PTA Schools of Excellence*

ALEXANDRIA, Va., (Aug. 26, 2015) — National PTA® is pleased to announce that 124 schools and PTAs, representing 33 states and one Department of Defense school in Turkey, have been recognized as [2015-2017 National PTA Schools of Excellence](#). The National PTA School of Excellence designation honors accomplishments in building strong, effective family-school partnerships, which are proven to make a difference for students and schools.

“More than 40 years of research shows that when families and schools work together, student achievement increases, schools improve and communities grow stronger,” said Laura Bay, president of National PTA. “National PTA Schools of Excellence are true examples of what can be accomplished when schools and families collaborate. We are pleased to recognize these schools and PTAs for their leadership and commitment to partnering to support student success and continuous improvement.”

Among the [2015-2017 National PTA Schools of Excellence](#), 36% are Title 1 schools and nearly two-thirds have more than 30% of their student population that qualify for free and reduced-price lunch. Together, the schools serve more than 93,500 students.

National PTA launched its [National PTA School of Excellence program](#) in 2013 to help strengthen family-school partnerships across the country and make measurable progress in the areas of education, health and safety, and arts and cultural exploration. Through the program, a PTA partners with its school at the beginning of the school year to examine how families feel the school measures up to the research-based indicators of the [National Standards for Family-School Partnerships](#). After evaluating their current family engagement strategies, the PTA and school then work together throughout the year to address barriers and open up new ways for families to support student success. The National PTA School of Excellence designation is awarded when families feel the school has achieved a high level of engagement or when the PTA and school have made substantive, positive improvement in families’ perceptions since the beginning of the year.

Following are [key outcomes](#) which were determined from family surveys and interviews with school leaders that demonstrate improved family-school partnerships after completion of the National PTA School of Excellence program:

- Nearly 95% of families feel they are treated fairly regardless of their age, race or cultural background.
- Nearly 80% of families feel they understand the academic standards their child is expected to meet and how their school's curriculum is linked to those standards.
- More than 80% of families feel empowered to advocate for the success of their own and other children.

In addition to being designated as 2015-2017 National PTA Schools of Excellence, two PTAs also have been recognized with the [2015 Phoebe Apperson Hearst Awards for Innovation in Family Engagement](#). Key Biscayne Community School PTA in Key Biscayne, Fla., has been honored with the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Outstanding Family-School Partnership Award. Elkins Pointe Middle School PTSA in Roswell, Ga., has been honored with the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Award of Merit. Key Biscayne Community School PTA and Elkins Pointe Middle School PTSA were selected to receive the awards from among the 2015-2017 National PTA Schools of Excellence.

"The Phoebe Apperson Hearst Awards, named after National PTA co-founder Phoebe Apperson Hearst, are the highest honor presented by the association to recognize local PTAs that have effectively implemented the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships," added Nathan R. Monell, CAE, National PTA executive director. "The efforts of Key Biscayne Community School PTA and Elkins Pointe Middle School PTSA are making a substantial, positive impact on student success and school improvement. We are thrilled to recognize the hard work and achievements of these PTAs with the 2015 Phoebe Apperson Hearst Awards and 2015-2017 National PTA School of Excellence designation."

For more information about the National PTA School of Excellence program and Phoebe Apperson Hearst Awards, visit [PTA.org/Excellence](http://PTA.org/Excellence) and [PTA.org/Hearst](http://PTA.org/Hearst).

### **About National PTA**

National PTA® comprises millions of families, students, teachers, administrators and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of parent involvement in schools. PTA is a registered 501(c) (3) nonprofit association that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health and welfare of children and youth.

## 2015-2017 National PTA School of Excellence Award Recipients

AE	APO	Incirlik Unit School PTSA	Incirlik Unit School
AK	Anchorage	Ocean View Elem. PTA	Ocean View Elementary School
AK	Anchorage	Lake Hood PTA	Lake Hood Elementary School
AK	Fairbanks	Woodriver Elementary PTA	Woodriver Elementary School
AL	Huntsville	Lee High School	Lee High School
AL	Huntsville	Whitesburg School PTA	Whitesburg Middle School
AL	Huntsville	Virgil I Grissom High School PTSA	Virgil I Grissom High School
AL	Madison	Horizon Elem PTA	Horizon Elementary School
AZ	Parker	Parker PTA	Blake Primary School
CA	Long Beach	Marshall PTA	Marshall Middle School
CO	Evergreen	Wilmot Elementary PTA	Wilmot Elementary School
CO	Falcon	Woodmen Hills Elementary PTA	Woodmen Hills Elementary School
CO	Westminster	Sheridan Green Elementary PTA	Sheridan Green Elementary School
CT	Newtown	Head O'Meadow PTA	Head O'Meadow Elementary School
CT	Redding	Redding Elementary School PTA	Redding Elementary School
CT	Southport	Mill Hill Elementary School	Mill Hill Elementary School
CT	Stratford	Eli Whitney Elementary PTSA	Eli Whitney Elementary School
FL	Apollo Beach	Apollo Beach Elementary PTA	Apollo Beach Elementary School
FL	Boca Raton	Del Prado Elementary PTA	Del Prado Elementary School
FL	Boca Raton	Loggers Run Middle PTSA	Loggers' Run Middle School
FL	Jacksonville	Thomas Jefferson Elementary PTA	Thomas Jefferson Elementary School
FL	Key Biscayne	Key Biscayne Community School PTA	Key Biscayne K-8 Center
FL	Lithia	Barrington Middle School PTSA	Barrington Middle School
FL	Miami	Southside Elem PTA	Southside Elementary Museums Magnet School
FL	Pensacola	Brentwood Elementary PTA	Brentwood Elementary School
FL	Pinecrest	Palmetto Elementary School PTA	Palmetto Elementary School
FL	Riverview	Collins Elementary PTA	Collins Elementary School
FL	Riverview	Boyette Springs Elementary PTA	Boyette Springs Elementary School
FL	Riverview	Marion Rodgers Middle School PTSA	Marion Rodgers Middle School
FL	St. Petersburg	Gulfport Elementary School	Gulfport Elementary School
FL	Tampa	Tampa Palms Elementary PTA	Tampa Palms Elementary School
FL	Tampa	Heritage Elem PTA	Heritage Elementary School
FL	Tampa	Coleman Middle PTSA	Coleman Middle School
FL	Temple Terrace	Riverhills Elementary PTA	Riverhills Elementary School
FL	Wellington	Equestrian Trails Elementary School PTA	Equestrian Trails Elementary School
GA	Atlanta	Beecher Hills Elementary School	Beecher Hills Elementary School
GA	Austell	South Cobb High School PTSA	South Cobb High School
GA	Canton	Hickory Flat Elementary PTA	Hickory Flat Elementary School
GA	Columbus	Georgetown Elementary School PTA	Georgetown Elementary School
GA	Duluth	Dr. M. H. Mason Elementary School PTA	Dr. M. H. Mason Elementary School

## 2015-2017 National PTA School of Excellence Award Recipients

GA	Johns Creek	Johns Creek HS PTSA	Johns Creek High School
GA	Lithonia	Miller Grove High School PTA	Miller Grove High School
GA	Marietta	Rocky Mount Elementary PTA	Rocky Mount Elementary School
GA	Marietta	Murdock Elementary PTA	Murdock Elementary School
GA	Marietta	Mountain View Elementary	Mountain View Elementary School
GA	Marietta	Hightower Trail Middle School PTSA	Hightower Trail Middle School
GA	Marietta	Wheeler PTSA	Joseph Wheeler High School
GA	Roswell	Elkins Pointe Middle PTA	Elkins Pointe Middle School
GA	Roswell	Crabapple Middle School PTA	Crabapple Middle School
GA	Savannah	Esther F. Garrison SVPA K-8 PTA	Esther F. Garrison School of Visual and Performing Arts
HI	Hanalei	Hanalei Elementary PTSA	Hanalei Elementary School
IN	Indianapolis	Liberty Park Elementary PTA	Liberty Park Elementary School
IN	Indianapolis	Raymond Park Intermediate Academy PTSA	Raymond Park Middle School
KS	Kansas City	Stony Point South Elementary PTA	Stony Point South Elementary School
KS	Kansas City	Stony Point North Elementary PTA	Stony Point North Elementary School
KS	Lenexa	Rising Star Elementary PTA	Rising Star Elementary School
KS	Merriam	Merriam Park Elementary PTA	Merriam Park Elementary School
KS	Overland Park	Blue Valley Early Childhood PTA	Blue Valley Early Childhood
KS	Prairie Village	Belinder Elementary PTA	Belinder Elementary School
KS	Shawnee Mission	Indian Hills Middle School PTA	Indian Hills Middle School
KY	Crestwood	Crestwood Elem PTA	Crestwood Elem PTA
LA	Pearl River	Creekside Jr High PTA	Creekside Junior High School
LA	Shreveport	Eden Gardens Fundamental Elem PTA	Eden Gardens Elementary School
LA	Shreveport	South Highlands Elem Magnet PTA	South Highlands Elementary School
MD	Bel Air	Red Pump Elementary PTA	Red Pump Elementary School