

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

February: Heart Month, Month of Love

Since February is known as Heart Month and Month of Love...what better time to do a check to see if your Local PTA Unit really reflects the diverse community of your school's culture. Have you at least done one activity? Have you contacted parents and members? Have you had conversations with members that have not attended PTA meetings in person or on zoom to find out why? Have you sent out communications in languages that are common in your school community? Most of all, have you been inclusive to all members? It's not too late to start, and we are interested in the amazing work that you are doing!

The Florida PTA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee encourages you to host a DEI event/program/project during DEI Week - March 7-13. This is an opportunity to make a difference in your school community. Share pictures, videos, and/or ideas of what your Local Unit or County Council did to reach your diverse membership. Use #FLTPADEIWEEK.

Here are a few ideas:

- *Say "Hello" and open a conversation (just one-on-one) with a parent to discuss the benefits of joining PTA. Do they know the PTA Mission? Have your "elevator speech" ready.
- *Host school community conversations on a regular basis about different topics revolving around DEI.
- *Host a Cultural Diversity Fair where diverse foods, items, performances, and stories are presented.
- *Host "Reading Under the Stars" where families read a story & share about their culture.

*Send a survey out to the school community. Find out if they know about PTA. Ask if there are ways they would like to engage with PTA? What do they need to feel included?

*Look for and identify leaders from all diverse backgrounds. Welcome them and encourage them to become part of your board.

Think out of the BOX! Just one activity opens the door to many new opportunities. February being Heart & Love Month please open your hearts and reach out to someone in your school community. It will make you feel fantastic!

Listed below are resources that will be extremely helpful for your local unit to get started. By the way, it's NEVER too late!

National PTA Resources:

<https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/Diversity-Equity-Inclusion/leadership-tips-and-tools/Quick-Tips-Getting-Started>

<https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/Diversity-Equity-Inclusion>

FloridaPTA:

<https://www.floridapta.org>

SAVE THE DATE - Florida PTA DEI WEEK, March 7-14, 2022

Get Engaged Wednesday - DEI Discussion Part 3 - in preparation for DEI Week: February 9

