



Fund-sharing Quick Guide for Elementary School PTAs/PTSAs

So, you want to donate money from your PTA to another organization? That's great! Here are a few things you need to do to get started. First, get your legal ducks in a row by making sure that:

A) the transaction advances your non-profit's charitable mission

Check your IRS form 1023 for your organization's original registration. If your PTA specifies that you are a benefit to students at your school *only* you may need to adopt a change in mission to make donations and comply with nonprofit law. Contact Tatia Vasbinder, WSPTA Local PTA Support, at tvasbinder@wastatepta.org for help regarding the IRS or Secretary of State.

B) a donation has been approved by your membership in your budget

Your PTA is a grassroots, membership-driven organization, and spending decisions must be approved by your members, as the stakeholders and contributors your board serves.

Then, where should your money go? If you have a relationship or contact with another PTA/PTO/site council with whom you've discussed financial support, it's as simple as your treasurer writing a check to the receiving school's organization.

If your PTA wants to give but doesn't know how, there are several options:

- Get in touch with parent leaders at another school to inquire about support they would appreciate (contact District Legislative Chair Liza Rankin if you need help making a connection at district_legchair@scptsa.org, or get in touch with your regional director.)
- Contribute to the SCPTSA Grants Fund by writing a check to SCPTSA and making a designation that funds are restricted to grants to local PTAs
- Grant money to SPS with a designation for a certain school or purpose, after communicating with the receiving school, of course. For donations to a school without a formal parent organization, this is an option
- Donate to an organization that supports SPS students, like a neighborhood food bank or arts organization
- Look on Donors Choose for a local project to support. (This is also a good option if your individual membership wants to support other schools but not use your PTA budget - you can share and promote a fundraiser among your parent community for individual contributions.)

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Examples of PTA-to-PTA donations over the past several years in SPS:

- Wedgwood Elementary PTA has fundraised for camp fees for Dunlap and Madrona to offset costs for their fifth-graders attending camp, and collected donations for John Muir PTA and Leschi PTA's social justice efforts by selling Black Lives Matter buttons
- North Beach PTA donated \$10,000 to Northgate Elementary to expand their library collection
- Queen Anne PTSA made a school event into an equity event by collecting donations for Highland Park Elementary PTA's playground improvement project
- Montlake PTA has committed 5% of their 2018-2019 budget to Lowell PTA
- Concord International PTSA has committed 6% of their budget to donate to other schools, and gave money to one of our newest PTAs for start-up expenses, Rainier View
- Green Lake Elementary PTA has donated teacher classroom supply money to Dearborn Park International
- Whittier Elementary PTA has donated to Bailey-Gatzert Elementary
- Many PTAs have also supported each other by volunteering between schools, running toiletry drives for Family Support Workers at other schools, coat and food pantry drives, school supply contributions, and more!

The problem of under-funded schools isn't unique to Seattle, or even Washington State. The equity issues this creates are only exacerbated by private dollars going to individual schools, and sharing money is a simple and effective way to support neighboring schools across the district. However, the inequities go far beyond for what parent fundraising can compensate. Our power as members of the SCPTSA is in our collective voice and advocacy, not our pocketbooks. PTA is present in over 80 schools in SPS, and by advocating together, we can hold the district and state accountable for closing gaps in opportunity and outcome, while we fill gaps between us as best we can. Thanks for all you do for *all* kids in Seattle Public Schools!

-Liza Rankin, SCPTSA District Legislative Chair
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