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National PTA Reacts to Attitudes toward Public Schools Report *Survey emphasizes critical role of parents in child's education*

ALEXANDRIA, VA. (August 25, 2010) – As research continues to show a direct link between parent involvement and student success, National PTA[®] feels that the Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward Public Schools released today emphasizes the critical role that parents play in supporting their child's education now more than ever.

For example, the survey shows 76% of parents thought that a student's parents are a more important factor in determining whether a child learns in school – up from 60% from the survey in 2000.

Although PTA strongly agrees with the critical role that parents play, the association also believes that a child's success is not the sole responsibility of a parent. Rather, it is a shared responsibility between the parent, teacher and student.

Relationships that parents develop with their child's teachers and their school's administrators are critical to ensure the success of their child. These relationships can help build a strong foundation for open and regular communication, opportunities for parents to reinforce student learning outside of school, and the ability to share decision making with their child's school.

The survey shows that parents are overwhelmingly confident (92%) that their child will graduate from high school. Achieving this goal will take sustained effort between parents and teachers to ensure the child's success through the use of regular communication and data showing student progress. These parent-teacher relationships can play a significant role in ensuring that children graduate from high school and are college and career ready.

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.

