

PTA's FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In June, Governor Bredesen signed the School Support Organization Accountability Act. In a nutshell, the law requires parent organizations such as PTAs, booster clubs and other parent led school support groups to have 501 (c) 3 status and a few other forms and documents on file with the school system. The law took effect on July 1, 2007, but organizations must comply by July 1, 2008. Therefore, it is important for PTAs to take this school year to make sure they have the documentation that is required so that it may be promptly filed with the Shelby County School System.

The following is the documentation required:

- Proof of non-profit status
- List of officers (president, vice-president/president-elect, secretary, and treasurer) and their contact information.
- Goals and objectives
- Bylaws
- Annual detailed report of finances

PTAs are fortunate for the most part, since we are chartered under the Tennessee PTA's 501 (c) 3 status. Cindy Dearing, Tennessee PTA President, has already written a letter that states we have our non-profit status through the Tennessee PTA. And the PTA Purposes and Mission Statement will suffice for the goals and objectives portion. However you will need to supply the school system a list of your officers as stated above, your current, up-to-date bylaws and the annual financial report, which as of print time, the audit report that is to be filed with Tennessee PTA will be what the PTAs file with the SCS system.

Our emphasis this year will be to begin getting these requirements together. If your bylaws are not up-to-date (revised within the last 5 years) then you will need to form a bylaws committee now to begin the revision process. Please make sure that record keeping follows procedure. And make sure your local unit files the correct IRS 990 form (information available on this in the first Tennessee PTA Bulletin); as all are required by IRS rules now, no matter how much money goes through your books.

The Shelby County Council board is here to help you if you need it on all of these issues. Please contact president@sccpta.org to find out the appropriate board member to assist you. And while this new law sounds intimidating and frightening, it shouldn't be, because, as PTAs, we should be following these guidelines anyway.