

From: Bely Luu <Bely@wacharters.org>
Subject: RE: Business practices
Date: May 12, 2024 at 9:40:47 PM PDT
To: Alan McPhee <alanm@mypcm.org>

Hi Alan,

All of these groups can fundraise, but they differ in how they operate.

PTA (Parent-Teacher Association): typically affiliated with the National PTA and part of a bigger network, often following the national bylaws and advocacy goals. They may have to follow fundraising guidelines set by the national PTA. Here is more information about starting a PTA in

WA: <https://www.pta.org/home/About-National-Parent-Teacher-Association/join/start-a-pta>

PTO (Parent-Teacher Organization): Independent organization with its own policies and priorities. It's more common for charters in Washington to start up a PTO. Some PTOs might start up their own 501c3 to do independent fundraising and other activities. Starting a nonprofit is not required unless the organization fundraises for more than \$50K per year and pays others to carry out activities of the organization. I've linked a [self-assessment guide](#) to determine if/when to register as a charity with the WA Secretary of State. Given the time constraint, the best way to fundraise is for PTO to support the school with fundraising efforts and facilitate the funds through the school's 501c3 status.

Parent Council: This group generally works collaboratively with the school's administration. They tend to focus on school improvement and serve as liaisons between the school and parents. They may collaborate with the PTO to bring more families to support the school.

Let me know if you'd like to chat further.

Best,
Bely

Bely Luu | Director of Innovative Schools | she/her
Washington State Charter Schools Association (WA Charters)

From: Alan McPhee <alanm@mypcm.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 12, 2024 4:07 PM
To: Bely Luu <Bely@wacharters.org>
Subject: Re: Business practices

Hi Bely!

The parent group would like some clarification of what is a PTA vs PTO vs parent council, and what kinds of fundraising each can do. Do you have a primer or WA code citation?

With gratitude,

Alan

PCM board treasurer