



LA
CRESCENTA
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

PTA &
FOUNDATION

What is the difference and why do we need both?

Many parents seek clarity as to the differences between the PTA and Foundation and why two separate organizations are required to perform one job. At LCES, Foundation and PTA share a common goal – the betterment of our children's education. Both organizations work together throughout the year toward that end, but we each have a separate focus and are governed differently. PTA's funds will be focused on building a strong community at our school while the Foundation's funds are used to purchase elements of education that the district and state are unable to provide, including technology, supplemental curriculum and valuable student services. There are times when PTA and Foundation objectives will overlap, so it is vital that we work closely together.

The PTA is a long-recognized entity that parents know. It is also a political entity and has a voice in Sacramento where Foundation does not. We are different in how we raise and spend money. One of the largest differences between a PTA and a Foundation is a Foundation's ability for long-range planning. PTA budget may only focus on the current year's needs. Foundation is able to carry over funds from year to year which allows for saving for larger projects or more costly programs. PTA's budget and programs are set at the beginning of the school year and allow for little movement. Foundation's decisions can be made, changed or redirected as needed over the course of the school year.

PTA is a national organization and is bound by strict by-laws which dictate how fundraising is achieved and how funds are implemented into programs. Foundation funding decisions are guided by the Foundation Board, as representatives of parents, together with teacher and administrative input.

We will be sending home PTA membership forms and starting our Fall Foundation Donation Drive. We urge you to support our school and get involved. Check the calendar and newsletter for meeting dates.