



## 2019-2020 DIRECT APPEAL: Frequently Asked Questions

The Direct Appeal encourages Q300 families to give or raise funds to pay for crucial enrichment programs and services that deepen your child's learning experience at Q300. **The Direct Appeal accounts for 85% of the net amounts raised.** Nearly **100% of Direct Appeal funds** go directly to pay for such programs and services.

1. **Why should I contribute to the PTA, given that Q300 is a public school?** The PTA raises money to help **cover the funding gap** between the **cost of the enriched education** your kids receive and Department of Education (DOE) funding. The DOE does not pay for teaching assistants, certain enrichment programs and electives, and other priorities and does not provide extra funding for Q300's gifted and talented status. Further, unlike many other public schools, Q300 is not eligible for Federal Title 1 funds (which are provided to schools with a certain percent of households that are at or below the federal poverty level).
2. **Why is it important to get 100% family participation?** We strive for 100% family participation in the Direct Appeal because many potential PTA funders consider family participation a key factor in deciding whether to give grants. **Since the school's inception, a yearly average of 69% of Q300 families donated to the Direct Appeal and other fundraisers.** By giving to the Direct Appeal – at whatever level is right for your family – you show funders that we have an active, engaged, and committed community.
3. **What will the Direct Appeal funds be used for?** The funds help pay for the following:
  - a. Schoolwide:
    - Up to \$500 per teacher for wish list items, classroom supplies and activities
    - Teacher professional development, such as Responsive Classroom training, differentiated instruction workshops, and team building
    - Need-based financial aid to families for trips and other activities
    - Support for community-building events, such as Welcome Breakfast for Incoming Families, Costume Party, International Potluck, and Auction and Dance Party
  - b. Lower Division (K-4<sup>th</sup> Grades):
    - Enrichment programs taught by organizations such as Arts Connection (Visual Arts (including storytelling, bookmaking, cartooning), Musical Theater, and Vocal Music), Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, Chess Kids, and Center for Architecture
    - One teaching assistant (TA) for each K, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class, and one shared TA for each of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades
    - Support for the kindergarten stepping up ceremony and lower division graduation
  - c. Upper Division (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades):
    - Electives taught by Art House Astoria (music theater/chorus and band) and NYC Chess Kids
    - Support for clubs and electives, including Brain Games, Yearbook, Debate, and Storytelling
    - School materials such as class sets of Chromebooks, laptop carts, printers, library books, microscopes, gym equipment, and art installation materials
    - Support school trips and 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation

Q300 Parent-Teacher Association, Inc.

Lower Division: 28-37 29th Street, Astoria, NY 11102 • Upper Division: 31-51 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Long Island City, NY 11106

[www.q300pta.org](http://www.q300pta.org) • [directappeal@q300pta.org](mailto:directappeal@q300pta.org)

4. **How is the PTA budget determined?** In the Spring semester, the PTA identifies the needs of each grade in consultation with Q300 administration, teachers, families, and students. Once the PTA budget is created, the PTA budget is voted on by the PTA's general membership at its June meeting. It is amended from time to time. For a copy of our PTA budget, please email [treasurer@q300pta.org](mailto:treasurer@q300pta.org).
5. **How much should my family give or raise?** The total amount we hope to raise this school year from all sources is \$402,800, which represents the entire 2019-2020 budget and a portion of the 2020-2021 PTA budget.
  - a. For kindergarten through 4th grades, which will have teaching assistants, **we suggest that you give or raise \$1,500 per student (\$150 per month for 10 months)** to help meet the target amount.
  - b. For 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, which will not have teaching assistants, **we suggest that you give or raise \$1,000 per student (\$100 per month for 10 months)** to help meet the target amount.

Of course, you may donate more or less than the suggested amount – please give what you can afford. **Over the years, families have donated a range of amounts.**
6. **Can my family contribute in installments?** The online contribution form (see below) provides an option for you to arrange for scheduled contributions based on your family budget. An example is a 10-month installment plan that coincides with the school year.
7. **How can my family, friends, and colleagues donate to the Direct Appeal?**
  - a. Make a one-time donation by check or credit card. Send the completed contribution form and check, if applicable, in your child's communications folder or by mail to: Q300 PTA, 28-37 29th Street, Astoria, NY 11102. Checks are payable to: Q300 PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION, INC. **For one-time donations, check is preferred, as the PTA incurs fees on credit card payments.**
  - b. Donate online by credit card, PayPal account, or other methods online through <https://www.q300pta.net/fundraising/da/>. You can set up recurring donations via credit card, or PayPal. For ACH transfers from your bank account, please contact [treasurer@q300pta.org](mailto:treasurer@q300pta.org).
8. **How can I fundraise and think creatively about my contribution to the Direct Appeal?** In the past, Q300 families have sent an email or letter to friends and families with a copy of the Direct Appeal documents and some have organized lemonade stands and stoop sales to help raise funds.
9. **Can I participate in my corporate matching program?** The PTA may be eligible for your employer's corporate matching program. Please provide us with the necessary forms from your employer.
10. **Are donations tax-deductible?** Yes. The PTA (EIN: 47-2258209) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your charitable contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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