



Together, MBEF and PTA Build Quality Education For Our Local Schools

Manhattan Beach School district ranks third highest among all unified districts in the state. Public education succeeds in Manhattan Beach because our community places a strong value on quality schools and *works together* to make them a reality.

We have two organizations that each play a vital role in the outstanding education our kids receive: the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation (MBEF) and the PTA.

What is MBEF?

26 years ago, a proactive group of Manhattan Beach parents banded together and raised \$20,000 to help our district alleviate inadequate state funding for basic art and music programs. Over the years, the state continued to make budget cuts to education. Consequently, MBEF has grown to become a critical source of support for all levels of education from basic education to enrichment programs. Today, MBEF supports MBUSD with \$4.4 million dollars in grants to bridge the gap between what the state funds and what it actually costs to provide a quality education.

What is PTA?

Each of the seven school sites in Manhattan Beach has a PTA to support the specific needs of its own individual campus. Each school's PTA has its own Board of Directors that raises funds to pay for campus-specific needs, such as technology, school supplies, classroom materials, and this year operational support staff to keep the campus running throughout the school year.

How are MBEF and PTA different?

MBEF's focus is on funding the *people* needed to teach important programs at each school sites. While PTA bylaws require funds to be raised and spent in the same school year, MBEF *raises funds a year in advance* so that its grants can be included in MBUSD's budget planning to pay for teachers.

While we can thank MBEF for our librarians and computer specialists, PTA pays for our library books as well as computers and software. Each organization would not succeed without the other. Despite their different roles, both MBEF and PTA work together to fund critical programs. Because of these organizations, our schools continue to be progressive and offer a high-quality education for our children.

Why can't our tax dollars fund a quality education for our kids?

California's school financing system is vastly different—and far more complex—than other states' systems. Unlike other states, California school districts don't keep local property taxes to pay for schools. In an attempt to create parity among school districts, property taxes go to Sacramento. They are redistributed to the school districts according to complex formulas. So regardless of the taxes we pay in our area, our per-pupil funding is about the same or even less than other districts. Unfortunately, California ranks among the lowest in the nation on per-pupil funding for public schools. Thanks to both MBEF and PTA, working hand-in-hand, Manhattan Beach has once again found a way to deliver schools that offer every child, every chance. We hope that your family will get involved, ask questions, learn more, and join our community in the fight to keep our public schools the best they can be!