

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICS TEACHERS

AAPT/PTRA Application and Information

Deadline: April 30, 2009

Thank you for your interest in the AAPT/PTRA project. In what follows you will find [INFORMATION ABOUT THE AAPT/PTRA PROJECT](#) and information about [APPLYING FOR THE AAPT/PTRA PROJECT](#).

INFORMATION ABOUT THE AAPT/PTRA PROJECT

www.aapt.org/PTRA/index.cfm

PHASE I

The AAPT/PTRA project is a teacher training and outreach program supported in part by a grant from the National Science Foundation for outstanding precollege physics and/or physical science teachers. A teacher accepted into and completing the AAPT/PTRA project will become a Physics Teaching Resource Agent (i.e., PTRA). During the training phase of the AAPT/PTRA project, teachers will be given training in physics content, classroom-based physics laboratory activities, equity issues, issues in physics education, workshop organization, and leadership. The National Leadership Institutes are conducted each summer in conjunction with the annual summer meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT).

The next AAPT/PTRA national leadership institute will be at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, from Sunday afternoon, July 19, through Friday, July 24, 2009. PTRAs are expected to arrive on Saturday, July 18, 2009. The national leadership institute will be led by some of the most outstanding high school and university introductory physics teachers in the United States.

PHASE II

As a result of this training, the participants will be expected to conduct workshops for teachers in their geographic area, which are similar in content and nature to the workshops in which they are trained. This may include not only teachers in the PTRA's school system but also neighboring school districts. It is intended that PTRAs will be a resource for all teachers in their geographic area. Thus, it is important that district level administrators understand that the PTRA's talents and new training are a national resource to be shared with other school districts. The greater the commitment to share this talent and training by the applicant's school administration, the greater the chance the PTRA will fulfill the goals of the AAPT/PTRA project.

Since the time and resources available to classroom teachers to organize workshops is generally limited, each potential PTRA is expected to ask a school district administrator (e.g., science curriculum and instruction specialist) to assist the PTRA with logistical workshop support (e.g., send out announcements, arrange for workshop sites, contact teachers, or school districts that might like to have workshops conducted for their teachers, et cetera.).

The support provided for PTRAs by the National Science Foundation include:

1. Up to \$600.00 travel support to attend the 2009 national leadership institute.
2. Meals and lodging support of \$60.00 per day for seven days during the 2009 national leadership institute. Participants are encouraged, but not required to attend the AAPT summer meeting, at their own expense as part of their training, from July 25 to July 29, 2009.
3. Support for outreach workshops. These funds can be used for PTRA honorarium and/or for materials used to conduct the workshops.

The responsibilities of the PTRA participants are to:

1. Attend and participate in all aspects of the 2009 national leadership institute.
2. Conduct at least two workshops per year based on the summer training programs. For the purpose of the AAPT/PTRA grant, a workshop is considered to be a minimum of six hours of instruction. In order to obtain credit for a six-hour workshop, it is permitted to break the workshop time down into several shorter sessions such as two three-hour sessions.
3. Collect the workshop fee for AAPT/PTRA workshops conducted, and forward fee to AAPT at the conclusion of workshop. At present the workshop fee is \$10.00 per hour per participant.
4. Complete workshop documentation forms and supply AAPT with the names of teachers who attend AAPT/PTRA workshops, as well as their school and home addresses and phone numbers.
5. Supply original receipts for all expenses for which AAPT/PTRA funds are to be disbursed.

The AAPT/PTRA project is open to anyone who teaches physics or physical science at least half time in his or her school. The school may be a public or private secondary school in the United States or its territories.

APPLYING FOR THE AAPT/PTRA PROJECT

A complete application consists of the **originals plus three copies of each** of the following:

1. An AAPT/PTRA applicant information form. See Form I.
2. A resume. The resume should include, but not be limited to, the following: Number of years teaching; Number of years teaching physics; Number of years teaching physical science; Degrees obtained; Title, year taken, and grade earned in all physics courses taken. An unofficial copy of transcript(s) will be accepted in place of above and not be counted against page limitation. **TWO PAGES MAXIMUM LENGTH.**
3. A one page narrative describing why you believe you will be a successful PTRAs. **ONE PAGE MAXIMUM LENGTH.**
4. A one page letter from a district administrator expressing support for the outreach component of the AAPT/PTRA project. This person should be able to advertise workshops and have ability and willingness to work with a PTRAs to organize workshops. A PTRAs is trained to be a resource for teachers not only in the applicant's school district but also in the surrounding region. See Form A. The type of support a school district can commit includes:
 - a. using teacher training funds to support AAPT/PTRA outreach workshops,
 - b. provide some secretarial support to help schedule and register teachers for workshops,
 - c. providing equipment and/or rooms for a AAPT/PTRA workshop, and/or
 - b. paying for substitute coverage so teachers can attend an AAPT/PTRA workshop.
5. A one page letter of reference from someone who is familiar with your work as a classroom teacher. **ONE PAGE MAXIMUM LENGTH.** Form C
6. A copy of a sharing idea. See Form S. During the national leadership institute each participant will be expected to share with the other participants a teaching idea such as a demonstration, experiment, or other teaching idea. **TWO PAGES MAXIMUM LENGTH.**

Please send **originals plus three completed copies** of the application forms to be received by AAPT by Thursday, April 30, 2009. The application forms must be collated in the order listed below:

FORM I:	AAPT/PTRA INFORMATION	1 page (including back)
FORM V:	AAPT/PTRA RESUME	2 pages
FORM N:	AAPT/PTRA NARRATIVE	1 page
FORM A:	SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPORT	2 pages (including letter)
FORM C:	COLLEAGUE LETTER OF SUPPORT	1 page
FORM S:	AAPT/PTRA SHARING	1 page (including back)

Total number of pages in application	8 pages
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If more than the eight pages listed above are submitted, extra pages will be discarded before the selection of participants begins. Submit complete application to AAPT to be received no later than April 30, 2009 at the following address:

AAPT/PTRA
American Association of Physics Teachers
One Physics Ellipse
College Park, MD 20740-3845

AAPT will begin mailing acceptance letters by the Middle of May, 2009.

**PHYSICS TEACHING RESOURCE AGENT PROJECT APPLICATION
AAPT/PTRA APPLICATION INFORMATION
FORM I**

Name (last, first) [Social Security Number]

Home address: _____

Home Telephone: (_____) _____

Name of School: _____

School Address: _____

School Telephone: (_____) _____

School Fax Number: (_____) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

On the back of this form record the applicant's 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 teaching assignment, number of students in each class and number of hours per week for each subject.

Describe background of students in your school. Use percentages.

Rural [], Suburban [], Urban []

Describe racial mix of students in your school. Use percentages

Asian [], Black [], Hispanic [], White []

List below the person who is writing the letter of district support (e.g., superintendent, science supervisor, curriculum and instruction administrator, etc.):

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

NAME OF WRITER OF RECOMMENDATION: _____

RELATION OF RECOMMENDER TO APPLICANT: _____

I have read the information sheet provided and understand the responsibilities of a teacher accepted into the AAPT/PTRA project.

[Signature of Applicant]

**PHYSICS TEACHING RESOURCE AGENT PROJECT APPLICATION
FORM A
(DISTRICT LEVEL SCIENCE CURRICULUM AND/OR INSTRUCTION SUPPORT)**

A teacher from your school district has been nominated to apply to the AAPT/PTRA project. Information about the AAPT/PTRA project is available for your review at www.aapt.org/PTRA/index.cfm. It is important to realize that PTRAs are being trained as a national resource, and this resource should be available to other schools or districts beside the one in which the PTRA teaches. A PTRA will be supported to present up to 12 hours of workshop instruction per year based upon the training received this summer. This form is designed for a school district administrator responsible for science curriculum and instruction to indicate support for this concept.

[Name of School District]

[School]

Name and Title of Administrator: _____

Business Address _____

Business Telephone: _____

Fax Number: _____

Is it a reasonable expectation that the applicant will be teaching physical science/physics during the next two years?

YES []

NO []

CANNOT SAY []

Should your teacher be accepted into the AAPT/PTRA project, please describe how your school system would support the outreach component of the AAPT/PTRA project. Please answer this question on a separate single sheet of paper addressed to AAPT/PTRA project. This support could include released time, substitute pay, financial support from professional development funds, use of school facilities for workshops, secretarial help, workshop promotion, etc., so your teacher could fulfill his/her role as a PTRA. Please be as specific as possible.

[Signature of District Science Curriculum Administrator]

[Date]

**PHYSICS TEACHING RESOURCE AGENT PROJECT APPLICATION
FORM S (Sharing)**

One of the key ideas of the AAPT/PTRA project is to share effective teaching ideas. Each new participant is expected to present a teaching idea to his/her fellow participants. The nature of the sharing can be a demonstration, a laboratory activity, a teaching technique, et cetera. If you are accepted into the AAPT/PTRA project, you will be expected to make a five-minute presentation of such an idea. In the space below and/or on the back of this page, outline the sharing that you plan to do. There should be enough information provided so that another teacher could make use of your idea.