

TEXAS PTA

Legislative Resolutions

TEXAS PTA RESOLUTION ADOPTION PROCESS

Formulating Texas PTA resolutions begins with recommendations coming from Local, Council or Area PTAs, state PTA board or from recommendations of interim statewide study committees.

These recommendations are presented to the PTA Legislative Committee that is appointed by the Texas PTA president. The Legislative Committee prepares draft resolutions that are presented to the board of directors.

Resolutions approved by the board are mailed to all local PTA units 90 days before the Texas PTA Annual Convention, at which time the convention body debates and adopts the final official resolutions of the Texas PTA. Each resolution automatically stays in effect for five years after adoption.

2007 – No newly adopted resolutions

2006

FUNDING

Resolved that Texas PTA implores the governor of this state in conjunction with the Legislative Budget Board to use their statutory powers to provide adequate funding for current textbook purchases as required by the Texas Constitution.

Resolved that Texas PTA encourages the governor and the Texas legislature to fully fund the state's portion of all other public education expenses for future legislative bienniums and to make funding of enrollment growth a top priority for the state, as it is with local school boards.

SCHOOL CHOICE

Resolved that Texas PTA assume a leadership position in raising questions and exploring ideas that will help legislators, policy makers and school districts make sound judgments on issues of school choice.

Resolved that Texas PTA recommends that choice options and alternatives for public schools should ensure that a viable public school system is sustained in every community; parents have the opportunity for involvement in their children's education; a fair and equitable selection process is maintained for schools of choice; adequate and objective information is provided so that parents can make informed choice decisions for all children, including those with special needs, have equal opportunity to participate in the choice plan; appropriate and free transportation is provided for all students participating in the choice plan.

Resolved that Texas PTA provides information and guidelines to local units and councils that would facilitate understanding and discussion, and enable members to make informed decisions on issues of school choice.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Resolved that Texas PTA encourages the Commissioner of Education to establish an Office of Parental Involvement at the Texas Education Agency to conduct research and maintain resource materials to enable Education Service Centers to train schools in implementing effective parental involvement programs.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION EDUCATION

Resolved that Texas PTA shall promote educating youth and the community about violence and shall promote providing practical skills for preventing violence.

Resolved that Texas PTA supports training children in nonviolent conflict resolution and youth violence prevention.

Resolved that all faculty and staff in schools receive non-violent conflict resolution training.

TABLOID-TYPE TELEVISION PROGRAMS

Resolved that Texas PTA and its constituent bodies embark upon a campaign to urge television networks and syndicators to air tabloid-type programs during school hours or in the evening when parental supervision is available.

SAFE SCHOOLS

Resolved that Texas PTA commits to making all schools safe by offering support for implementing school policies that do not tolerate weapons, assaults, sexual harassment, or drugs.

Resolved that Texas PTA commits to making all schools safe by supporting the removal of students involved in violent acts from the regular school program.

Resolved that Texas PTA supports providing, to the extent possible, alternative placements for students removed from the regular school program.

Resolved that Texas PTA commits to working collaboratively with community agencies; city, county and state governments; and the judiciary to resolve issues affecting school and community safety.

Resolved that Texas PTA supports providing opportunities for schools and students to prepare for these changes.

Resolved that Texas PTA urges all families to make a special commitment to review and support the local student code of conduct, to sending students to school on a regular basis, and to working with schools regarding all aspects of student learning.

PLAYGROUND SAFETY

Resolved that Texas PTA urges their local units to encourage their local school boards or appropriate entities to adopt a playground maintenance checklist to insure safe play areas for our children.

PROHIBITING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT PTA FUNCTIONS

Resolved that Texas PTA requires that the serving of alcoholic beverages be prohibited at PTA-sponsored functions or related PTA activities.

2005

REDUCTION IN CHILDHOOD OBESITY

Resolved that Texas PTA is dedicated to the reduction and prevention of childhood obesity in Texas. Texas PTA will continue to insist on regular physical activity in schools and support efforts to improve the nutritional value of foods and beverages served in schools throughout the state.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN SCHOOLS

Resolved that the Texas PTA, its units, councils and districts reaffirm its commitment to the promotion and support of violence prevention in schools and communities.

Resolved that the Texas PTA encourage its units, councils and districts to promote education of parents, students, teachers and the community in recognizing signs and circumstances that may lead to potential outbursts of violence.

Resolved that the Texas PTA support efforts to ensure that adequate counseling and other support services are available in the elementary, middle and secondary schools of Texas.

Resolved that the Texas PTA support measures to improve the ability of school staff to respond to incidents that may occur, and promote the inclusion of violence reduction programs in the elementary, middle and secondary schools.

FINE ARTS IN THE CORE CURRICULUM

Resolved that Texas PTA supports fine arts in the core curriculum.

Resolved that Texas PTA supports requiring fine arts to be utilized for integrated instruction as well as maintaining their own integrity.

2004

DOOR-TO-DOOR FUNDRAISING PROHIBITION

Resolved that all local units refrain from organizing and participating in any fund-raising activities that may entice a student to go door-to-door.

Resolved that Texas PTA educate the local unit PTA boards, principals, administrators and parents to the existing standards and guidelines concerning the role of children in fund-raising.

Resolved that Texas PTA inform potential exhibitors of PTA fund-raising guidelines and admit only those exhibitors who adhere to those guidelines.

PARENTS EVALUATING ADMINISTRATORS

Resolved that Texas PTA will work with the Commissioner of Education to include Parental Involvement as one of the Performance Domains in administrator evaluation.

Resolved that parental input be included in the evaluation process.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE RECOMMENDATIONS ON ALCOHOL ADVERTISING PLACEMENT

Resolved that the Texas PTA supports that public health agencies monitor the placement and limitation of alcohol advertising.

2003

BURNING OF HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC WASTES AND TIRES IN CEMENT KILNS

Resolved that Texas PTA supports state and federal regulations to require all facilities that burn hazardous and toxic wastes and/or tires to meet the same environmental and safety standards regulating commercial hazardous waste incinerator facilities.

Resolved that Texas PTA supports state and federal regulations that require the labeling of all products produced or derived from facilities burning hazardous and toxic wastes and/or tires so that consumers are aware of the composition of the products.

Resolved that Texas PTA supports notification of the public prior to the issuing, renewing and expanding of permits for these facilities.

Resolved that Texas PTA supports requiring all facilities that burn hazardous and toxic waste and/or tires comply with at least the same regulatory standards as those applied to commercial hazardous waste incinerator facilities {unless these facilities are within a five-mile radius of a school; whereupon, the regulatory standards must be set at levels that are not considered dangerous to the health and safety of children (ages 3 years old and up)}.

Resolved that this resolution is local, state and national in scope, meets the objects of PTA, and should be forwarded to the National PTA to be considered by the National PTA Convention Delegates in 1997.

CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

Resolved that anyone convicted of sexual offenses against children should receive the maximum sentence allowed by law and encourage that the offender should be required to serve the full sentence without the option of parole.

Resolved that anyone convicted of murdering a child should receive the maximum possible sentence allowed by law, and encourage that the offender should be required to serve the sentence without the option of parole.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Resolved that Texas PTA encourage teacher-preparation programs to include courses on parental involvement.

Resolved that Texas PTA request the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) to require proficiency in parental involvement for state teacher certification.

SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESSES

Resolved that the Texas PTA encourage and support local PTAs/PTSAs to work with the government officials and policy-makers in their communities to ensure that sexually oriented businesses or signs advertising these businesses are not located within 1,000 feet of residential areas, schools, religious facilities, libraries, recreational facilities, public parks, school activity centers or thoroughfares used regularly by school buses transporting children.

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE

Resolved that Texas PTA and its constituent bodies encourage school districts to participate in the Summer Food Service Program.

SPECIAL EDUCATION CLASS SIZE

Resolved that Texas PTA bring pressure to bear on the Texas legislature to require that the Texas Education Agency mandate maximum class size for all students classified as needing special education services.

Resolved that Texas PTA actively lobby that such class size recommendations be made according to handicapping condition and basic tenets of the Individual Educational Plan (IEP).

2002

PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS (Retired February 2007)

Resolved that Texas PTA encourages all PTA local units and councils to widely disseminate information regarding the Parents' Bill of Rights within their communities.

Resolved that Texas PTA prepares and disseminates information and materials to assist superintendents, principals, staff and parents in understanding the rights and responsibilities inherent in the Parents' Bill of Rights and in the Texas Education Code.

Resolved that Texas PTA prepares and disseminates information and materials to assist every public school in the state of Texas to have a parent-teacher organization.

Resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the Texas Association of School Boards, Texas Association of School Administrators, Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association and Texas Association of Secondary School Principals.