

S.03. **Random Drug Testing of School Employees** – PTA supports legislation that would allow districts to conduct random drug testing of employees.

T.03. **Leave for School Involvement** – PTA supports legislation prohibiting discrimination by an employer for allowing an employee to use prearranged vacation time or personal leave to participate in a school activity of the employee's child.

U.03. **Cement Kilns** – PTA supports regulations to require cement kilns burning hazardous and toxic wastes and/or tires to meet the same environmental and safety standards as fully permitted commercial hazardous waste.

V.03. **Hazardous Waste Facilities** – PTA supports requiring public participation through oral and written comments in the permit renewal, and expansion of facilities that burn hazardous and/or toxic waste or tires.

W.03. **Burning Hazardous Waste** – PTA supports requiring strict protective standards on the burning of toxic wastes and tires in order to have an environment safe for children.

X.03. **Product Labeling** – PTA supports regulations that require the labeling of all products derived from facilities burning hazardous and toxic wastes or tires.

Y.02. **Graduated Driver Licensing** – The Texas PTA supports legislation that establishes graduated driver licensing in the state of Texas.

III. School Finance

A.06. **Permanent School Fund** – Texas PTA supports retaining the principal in the Permanent School Fund and using the proceeds from that fund for public education only.

B.06. **Mandated Programs** – PTA supports state funding for state-mandated educational programs.

C.06. **School Facilities** – PTA supports state funding assistance for school facilities.

D.06. **Early Grades** – PTA supports priority funding for the early grades.

E.06. **School Personnel** – PTA supports increased funding for school personnel.

F.06. **Performance Based Funding** – PTA opposes performance-based funding.

G.05. **State's Share of Funding** – PTA supports increasing the state's share of funding to the local school districts.

H.05. **Revenue Enhancement** – PTA supports any type of revenue enhancement that would continue or increase funding for public education.

I.05. **Funding for Specific Areas** – PTA supports continued state funding of pre-K, kindergarten, bilingual education, vocational education, compensatory education, gifted and talented, special handicapped needs, textbooks, education service centers, libraries and community education.

J.05. **TRS** – PTA supports cost-of-living increases for retirees and increases in the state's contributions to the Teacher Retirement System.

K.04. **Priority Funding** – PTA supports making primary and secondary public education the number one priority in the state budget appropriation process.

L.04. **Proration** – PTA supports eliminating the state's ability to prorate available monies to school districts.

M.03. **Staff Development** – PTA supports increased funding for professional staff development in public schools.

N.03. **Tax Abatements** – PTA supports legislation that prohibits school tax abatements and provides alternatives to attract businesses.

O.03. **Tax Abatements** – PTA supports legislation to ensure that tax abatements and exemptions are not imposed on school districts without public participation as well as concurrence.

P.03. **Dyslexia** – PTA supports state funding for student needs related to dyslexia and related disorders.

Q.03. **Equity** – PTA supports increased state spending to achieve financial equity without leveling down.

R.02. **Local Control** – PTA supports local control for school districts.

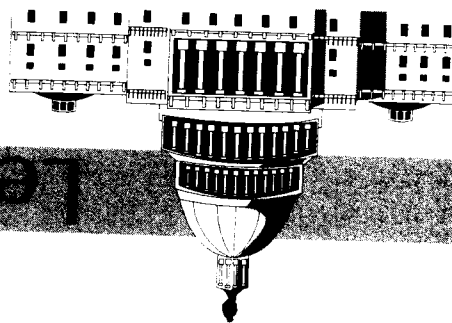
Texas PTA Legislative Position Adoption Process

Formulating the state PTA legislative positions begins with recommendations from Local, Council or Area PTAs; Texas PTA board members; or from interim statewide study committees. Recommendations are presented to the PTA Legislative Committee which is appointed by the state president. The Legislative Committee prepares a "proposed position" and presents it to the board of directors. Positions approved by the board are mailed to all Local PTAs 90 days before the annual statewide convention, at which time the convention body debates and adopts the final official position of the Texas PTA. Each position automatically stays in effect for five years after adoption.

NOTE: By virtue of the Texas PTA affiliation with National PTA, the Texas PTA supports legislation introduced addressing the National PTA legislative directives, policies and specific items.

Legislative Positions

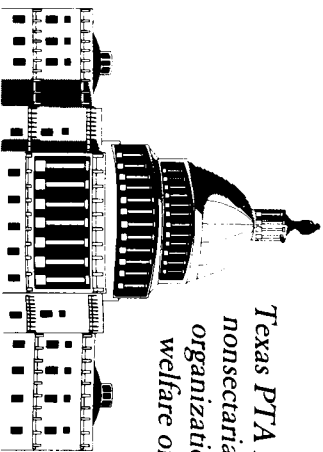
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I. Education

- A.06. **Mandatory Recess in Our Elementary Schools** – PTA supports mandatory recess in elementary schools.
- B.06. **Alternative Educational Programs** – Texas PTA supports the establishment of standards for the educational programs in alternative education settings.
- C.06. **Dropouts** – PTA supports identification and tracking of dropouts at all grade levels.
- D.05. **Reduced Class Sizes** – PTA supports legislation which addresses class size in core subjects for grades 5 through 12 and supports state funding for the costs associated with legislative limitation on class size.
- E.05. **School Boards and Personnel** – PTA opposes mandatory bilateral decision making between school boards and personnel.
- F.05. **Non-Public School Guidelines** – PTA supports requiring non-public schools to meet guidelines that would ensure a quality education for all children.
- G.04. **School Nurses** – PTA supports requiring a full-time registered nurse for every school or cooperative of schools with 1,000 or more students.
- H.04. **School Counselors** – PTA supports requiring a full-time counselor for every school or cooperative of schools with 500 or more students.
- I.04. **Enrichment TEKS** – Texas PTA supports requiring that the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) be taught in the enrichment curriculum to ensure that all children have access to a well-balanced curriculum.
- J.04. **Site Based Decision Making Reps** – Texas PTA supports requiring parent representatives on the campus and district-wide site based decision making committees be selected by parents.
- K.03. **Dyslexia** – PTA supports allowing modifications and/or accommodations on the TAAS Test for students with dyslexia and/or related disorders as set forth by the individual student's ARD or "504" committee. Such students may be exempt from the TAAS Test until such time that a TAAS Test for dyslexic and related disorders students is developed and field tested.
- L.03. **Programs for At-Risk Students** – PTA supports extended programs for children at risk.



Texas PTA is a noncommercial, nonsectarian-nonpartisan organization that promotes the welfare of children and youth.

Texas PTA does not endorse any candidate or political party.

II. Health, Welfare and Safety

- A.06. **Parental Rights Concerning Committing Youth to Mental/Behavioral Health Care Facilities** – Texas PTA supports the retention of parental rights regarding mental/behavior health care decisions pertaining to their children, including commitment to mental/behavioral health care facilities, until the child reaches the age of eighteen.
- B.06. **Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities** – PTA supports increasing the availability of substance abuse treatment facilities.
- C.05. **CHIP/CPS Funding** – PTA supports full funding of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Child Protective Services (CPS) in order to protect children and their health.
- D.05. **Expanded Newborn Screening** – PTA supports expanding the screening of all newborns for physical and/or mental disorders that may not be readily apparent to facilitate early detection and treatment.
- E.05. **Safe Campuses** – PTA supports safe campuses and other school district facilities.
- F.05. **School Staff Trained in CPR** – PTA supports requiring the presence of at least one adult staff person trained in CPR and first aid at each school building during school hours.
- G.05. **Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco** – PTA supports strengthening the laws dealing with the use or abuse of alcohol, drugs and tobacco.
- H.05. **Smoking** – PTA supports restriction of smoking in public places.
- I.04. **Forfeiture and Seizure Proceeds** – PTA supports dedicating a portion of forfeiture and seizure proceeds to substance abuse prevention and education.
- J.05. **Child Abuse Laws** – PTA supports strengthening child abuse laws and case worker funding.
- K.05. **Laws Governing Day Care Centers** – PTA supports strengthening laws governing day-care centers and increasing their availability.
- L.04. **Door-to-Door Sales** – PTA supports banning door-to-door sales by children 17 and under without parental accompaniment.
- M.04. **Sexually Oriented Businesses** – Texas PTA supports regulations and/or legislation to ensure that sexually oriented businesses cannot locate within 1,000 feet of a residential area, school, religious facility, library, recreational facility, public park, or school activity center.
- N.04. **State Matching Funds** – Texas PTA supports appropriation or designation of state funds at any time to secure the maximum federal dollars available for children's programs in Texas.
- O.04. **Tobacco Settlement Money** – Texas PTA supports directing tobacco settlement money to programs that benefit children.
- P.03. **Gun Safety** – PTA supports legislation on gun safety and gun safety education.
- Q.03. **TB Testing** – PTA supports TB testing of children and school personnel.
- R.03. **Suicide Prevention** – PTA supports in-service training for school personnel regarding suicide prevention.

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 leasing, renovation and expanding of petroleum fires facilities.

Resolved that Texas PTA supports requiring all facilities that burn hazardous and toxic waste under 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 higher levels that are not considered onerous 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 playgrounds 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).

PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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 parents, principals, staff and parents regarding the rights and responsibilities outlined in Parents' Bill of Rights and in the Education Code.

Resolved that Texas PTA prepares and disseminates information and materials to assist every 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.

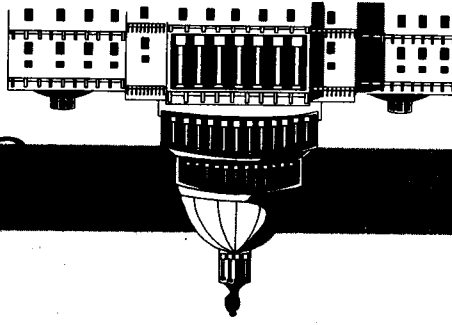
TEXAS PTA RESOLUTION ADOPTION PROCESS

Formulating Texas PTA resolutions begins with recommendations coming from Local, Council or Area PTAs, state PTA board members 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 PTAs 90 days before the Texas PTA Annual Convention, at which time the convention body debates and adopts the final resolutions of the Texas PTA. Resolutions that automatically stays in effect are adopted.

everychild, one voice.



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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 creating support for implementing school policies that do not tolerate weapons, alcohol, 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.

REDUCTION IN CHILDHOOD OBESITY

Resolved that Texas PTA is dedicated to reduction and prevention of childhood obesity. Texas PTA will continue to insist on physical activity in schools and support programs that 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 prevention 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 outbreaks 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.

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 expect only those exhibitors who adhere to these guidelines.

PARENTS EVALUATING ADMINISTRATORS

Resolved that Texas PTA will work with the Commissioner of Education to include Parent Involvement as one of the Performance Domain 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.

Position Statement - SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

The National PTA believes that all levels of the government (federal, state and local) have a central role in providing services that support public education and must share in providing adequate funding for our schools.

VOUCHERS, TUITION TAX CREDITS AND DEDUCTIONS

The National PTA opposes vouchers, tax credits, deductions and other such funding sources for public and nonpublic preschool, elementary and secondary school tuition and other education-related expenses for public and nonpublic school students.

The National PTA supports our system of public education as the major vehicle for perpetuating the basic values of a democratic system of government. This system must be strengthened and continue to be governed by public officials accountable to the public and supported by adequate funding.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

The National PTA acknowledges charter schools as one avenue to school reform and supports the concept of charter schools only if the schools reflect the positions and principles of the National PTA.

The National PTA will support legislation or policy decisions relating to charter schools that adhere to and comply with applicable laws and guidelines set forth for other public elementary and secondary educational institutions.

BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT IN THE SCHOOLS

National PTA recognizes that all components of a child's environment--home, school, community, and business--must actively be involved in cooperative relationships.

Although public moneys must remain the primary source of funds for providing each and every student with a quality education, many businesses have resources that can enhance the learning environment. It is important that any school/business partnership promote equity within the school community. Enrichment opportunities should benefit all children.

This position statement was written to update and combine resolutions and position statements concerning "Support for Public Education". The original resolutions and position statements will be archived in the Historical Records as reference on this issue