

To: All Unit/Council Presidents
Date: September 6, 2019
Re: Resolutions for Convention 2019



On behalf of the Resolutions Committee, we are proud to present you this year's Resolutions for your consideration.

NYS PTA delegates will vote on these resolutions at the 2019 Annual Convention in Tarrytown, NY on November 8-10, 2019. We would love to have you join us at Convention!

At your next PTA meeting, you may want to discuss these Resolutions with your members, and then vote on whether or not you support them. Then, if your members attend Convention, they can carry that information with them to help inform them when they vote.

Resolutions are the official NYS PTA positions. All of our positions are located in *Where We Stand*, and *Basic Policy*, which gives a broader overview of general positions.

The committee has been preparing and researching the 11 Retentions and 11 Updates that will be voted on at Convention by the delegates state wide. As FYI:

- *Retentions* are adopted resolutions that are up for renewal without any revision; delegates may therefore reaffirm or reject them in their current form, but may not amend them.
- *Updates* are adopted resolutions which are being revised to maintain their accuracy or relevance. Delegates will vote to reaffirm or reject each update as well, but may also amend *the revised wording* of the update.
- *Rescissions* are resolutions that can be retired because their resolves have been enacted. Once rescinded, a resolution becomes part of NYS PTA's historical record.

Resolutions debate is one of the high points of annual convention. When you come together with other delegates to voice your views and act on your principles, you will feel the power of volunteers to make a difference for children and schools.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns, and I hope to see you in Tarrytown!

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2019 PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

UPDATES (NEW IS BOLD UNDERScoreD, STRIKE THROUGH IS REMOVED)

UPDATE #1

Underage Access Resulting from the Direct Shipping of Alcoholic Beverages - 2012 (U-'05, R-'98)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek and support legislation that would make the sale of alcoholic beverages over the Internet to minors and the subsequent delivery to minors a felony with increased fines and penalties; and be it further

~~**Resolved** that the New York State PTA seek and support legislation that would require proper labeling of shipments to indicate that shipment must be signed for by a person over 21 years of age with photo identification; and be it further~~

Resolved that the New York State PTA seek and support legislation that would prohibit marketing via social media, as well as traditional advertising platforms, geared to attracting youth; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA urge units and councils to educate their members about the ease of access to alcohol on the Internet, by mail, by telephone and through the use of credit/debit cards and any other electronic payment methods; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA urge units and councils to educate their members about the risks involved and the need for vigilance in safeguarding credit cards.

Statement - While legislation has been enacted to require appropriate labeling and proof of age for alcohol shipments, verification at point of delivery is still a problem. Fines and enforcement are still lacking and such sale and delivery to a minor is only a misdemeanor. A new problem is advertising by alcohol distributors that is geared to attract youth, similar to what we have seen with nicotine products. These ads can be found mostly via social media, print advertising and radio.

UPDATE #2

Marijuana - 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, U-'91, R-'84)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. reaffirm its position against the legalization of marijuana, except for medical use approved by the Food and Drug Administration **or New York State Law**, and continue to work toward the education of children, parents, **families and communities** regarding **the** harmful effects from continued use of **recreational** marijuana **use**.

Statement - The legalization of recreational marijuana would have serious negative public health effects that have negative educational, mental health, juvenile protection, road and workplace safety, and economic implications. While there are serious issues of systemic injustice in New York State, the legalization of recreational marijuana does not address the root of these issues, rather can exacerbate these problems by promoting increased drug use and the accompanying negative social consequences in disadvantaged communities.

UPDATE #3

Fair Housing - 2012 (U-'05, R-'98, R-'91, R-'84)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge its units to be aware of discriminatory housing practices against families with children, particularly single-parent, minority, and LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, **queer (or questioning) and others**) families and families of children and adults with special needs; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA urge units to promote programs disseminating information of fair housing laws and the rights of individuals under those laws; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA support measures to strengthen existing laws to promote stronger enforcement of fair housing laws.

Statement - This resolution has been updated to reflect the current terminology. This resolution should be retained, as discrimination in housing continues to be a problem.

UPDATE #4

Absentee Notification Procedures - 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, R-'91, U-'84)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek legislation that would repeal sections 2c and 2d of the New York State Education Law 3213*; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA seek legislation that would require that persons in parental relationships of all **school-aged** students ~~grades K-12~~ be notified that they may submit a written request for notification of a child's absence from school; and be it further

Resolved that the written request includes the telephone number of the person or persons to be notified and any other information to facilitate communication; and be it further

Resolved that said notification take place by the most prompt and expedient manner possible by a person or persons authorized by the school district; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA urge its units and councils to educate persons in parental relationships as to the reasons for and significance of completion of the request for notification form.

* **New York State Education** Sections 3213c and d refer only to elementary students. This PTA resolution provides a similar process for all ~~K-12~~ students.

Statement - NYS Education Law 3213 deals with the supervisors of attendance, attendance teachers, attendance officers and their appointment, compensation, power & duties. Sections 2c & 2d specifically mention notification of student absence in elementary schools, but fail to include Pre-K, middle school & high school students through age 21. This resolution is more inclusive by extending the process to all students.

UPDATE #5

Air Quality Standards in Indoor Ice Arenas - 2012

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to establish air quality standards of less than ~~25~~ **20** parts per million (ppm) for carbon monoxide (CO), within enclosed ice arenas; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA urge the NYSDOH to establish air quality standards of less than ~~5~~ **0.3** ppm of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), within enclosed ice arenas; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA urge the NYSDOH to establish air quality standards of less than 50 micrograms per cubic meter for coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀) and less than ~~25~~ **12** micrograms per cubic meter for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) within enclosed ice arenas; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA support legislation for low emission or electric ice resurfacers, including proper maintenance thereof within enclosed ice arenas; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA seek and support legislation that requires adequate ventilation, and the installation of air quality measuring devices in all enclosed ice arenas; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA seek and support regulations requiring proper training of operators and staff in maintenance and use of equipment and in emergency procedures; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA urge its units, councils and regions to advocate for the education of parents/guardians and community members about the dangers of elevated levels of CO, NO₂ and particulate matter in enclosed ice arenas. ~~and be it further~~

~~**Resolved** that the New York State PTA forward this resolution to National PTA for its consideration.~~

Statement - Every year there are a handful of incidents at ice rinks in the United States and around the world where people become sick due to elevated levels of Carbon Monoxide (CO) and/or Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂). These incidents have included the following symptoms: headaches, dizziness, confusion, shortness of breath, blurred vision, loss of consciousness, irritation of the mucous membranes and respiratory tract, and, in severe cases, pulmonary edema.

The values in the first three resolves have been updated to reflect more strict pollutant limits aligned with Minnesota's regulation and Connecticut's guidelines and/or the Environmental Protection Agency's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The strictest standards should be used to protect susceptible individuals including children and youth, particularly those who suffer from asthma as well as other pulmonary, vascular or neurologic diseases and those who spend extended times in indoor ice rinks and their families.

Currently there are no federal indoor air quality regulations specific to indoor ice rinks. We urge New York State to enforce indoor air quality standards in indoor ice rinks, similar to Massachusetts, Minnesota and Rhode Island, outlining air sampling and record keeping requirements, action levels and required corrective measures that must be taken by ice rink operators.

The last resolve was deleted to reflect procedural changes in forwarding resolutions to National PTA.

UPDATE #6

Reducing & Phasing Out the Purchase of Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Plastic in New York Schools - 2012

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek and support legislation that would reduce and phase out the use of PVC products at all New York State school facilities; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA urge school districts and the New York State Education Department (NYSED) to develop green procurement policies to reduce and phase out the use and purchase of PVC building materials and office and education supplies in school facilities where safer cost effective alternatives are available; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA and its constituent units educate parents and community members about the potential health effects of PVC and work to eliminate PVC products at all PTA-sponsored events. ~~and be it further~~

~~**Resolved** that the New York State PTA forward this resolution to the National PTA for its consideration.~~

Statement - This resolution has been updated to reflect procedural changes in forwarding resolutions to National PTA. The remainder of this resolution should be retained. There are currently bills that have passed in both the Assembly and Senate, but have yet to be sent to the Governor's desk for signing. It is also important that PTAs continue to advocate on the local level for the reduction and phase out of PVC in schools and community.

UPDATE #7

Equitable Distribution of State Aid – 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, R-'91, R-'84)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support **full, equitable and adequate funding of all public schools**, and development of an equitable distribution of state aid funds to provide equal **and equitable** educational opportunities for all public school students; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA continue to urge the legislature and the governor to increase financial support of public education **to ensure beyond a sound basic education for all children.**

Statement - Under the Campaign for Fiscal Equity Lawsuit requiring a sound basic education for all public school children, more than \$4 billion is still owed to our New York State schools and students. The current Foundation Aid formula does not adequately reflect student need, especially for our high-needs school districts and students. Further, the amount allocated for school aid annually is woefully inadequate to support students.

UPDATE #8

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Use Insurance Parity – 2012 (U-'05)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers Inc. urge PTA units and councils to work to educate parents and the school community about parity issues and available mental health and substance abuse use services and programs.

Statement - Mental Health and substance use disorders have personal, familial, and societal costs. Children affected by mental illness often have no or limited access to comprehensive mental health services due to financial constraints. Requiring health insurance coverage to be on par with that available for physical illness would help alleviate this disparity. New York State and Federal Law require that health insurance plans cover mental health and substance use disorder treatment the same way they cover all other medical treatments. Unfortunately, many insurance companies continue to find loopholes refusing to provide adequate mental health and substance use coverage.

UPDATE #9

Awareness of Medication Management in Schools – 2012 (R-05, R-'98)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge units and councils to encourage school districts to ensure implementation of New York State regulations and guidelines as well as school policies and procedures regarding administration and management of prescription medication; and be it further

Resolved that New York State PTA urge units and councils to provide programs and information to raise awareness through education of adults in a parental role regarding access to medications; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA support annual in-service programs for faculty and staff that include awareness of symptoms of identified medical conditions for students under their supervision.

Statement - The New York State Education Department (NYSED) released Guidelines for Medication Management in Schools in 2015. Some additions to the guidelines are optional, so we still need to ensure school districts implement all guidelines.

UPDATE #10

Ingredient Labeling – 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, R-'91, R-'84)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support legislation that would require full disclosure, in clear language, of all ingredients and additives (including chemical additives), ~~in water~~ on food, drug, water, and cosmetic labels; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA encourage its units and councils to educate its members as to the importance of reading labels and understanding the possible significance of the effects of the listed ingredients on the human body in order to protect the nutrition and health of children.

Statement - The federal Nutrition and Labeling Education Act (NLEA) of 1990 requires most food bear nutrition labels and prescribes their form and content. More recently, the Code of Federal Regulations Title 21: Food and Drugs (latest revision April 2018) governs labeling while including many exemptions regarding the labeling of ingredients and additives in food, drugs, water, and cosmetics; therefore the resolution continues to be relevant. The update of the location of the word "water", as well as the addition of the parentheses, is for providing clarity.

UPDATE #11

Teaching Our Children Personal Safety – 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, R-'91)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourage each unit and council to promote educational programs (for parents, families, children and youth) based on the currently mandated New York State Education Department Personal Health and Fitness, and Safe and Healthy Environment Standards, ~~mandated Health and Safety Environment Standards (#2) of the New York State Education Department~~ with emphasis upon personal safety techniques.

Statement - This resolution has been updated to reflect the current New York State Education Department mandates.

RETENTIONS

RETENTION #1

Fines and/or Services for Vandalism - 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, U-'91, R-'84)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge that school districts and courts provide counseling or other preventive educational measures for all students who have been found guilty of vandalism to school property; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA urge that when courts find a minor guilty of vandalizing school property, school boards set restitution through the court in the form of service to the school community and fines to cover the cost of vandalism to the legal limit; and be it further

Resolved that, if the vandals and/or their parents are unable to provide full monetary compensation, additional service to the school community be sought in lieu of, or in addition to, the fines; and be it further

Resolved that for those incidents of vandalism which are not brought to the courts, school districts adopt Policies establishing consequences such as service to the school or community for the students involved.

Statement -This resolution should be retained. Since 2010 through 2018, there have been bills in the NYS Senate that have been referred to the Codes Committee with no further movement. The bill introduced in the Assembly in 2011 was also referred to the Codes Committee with no further action. In addition, it is important we continue to advocate to our school districts for restitution to the community when vandalism occurs.

RETENTION #2

Participation in Decision Making – 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, R-'91, R'84)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge its regions, councils, and units to place greater emphasis on training its members to analyze programs, curricula, and school budgets and to better comprehend education law and school district policies and procedures, thereby preparing members to engage in more knowledgeable discussion with educators, school boards, and legislators in order to convey priorities, innovative approaches and options necessary to maintain quality education for all children.

Statement - Family engagement has been proven essential for the academic and social success of children and youth. Additionally, as part of New York State Education Department's Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA), school districts are required to demonstrate opportunities for family engagement, aside from traditional parent-teacher conferences, report cards, phone calls, etc. PTA members should be educated on their role in the shared decision-making process.

RETENTION #3

Migrant Children - 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, R-'91, U-'84)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourage local and state education agencies to develop and implement processes that improve migrant students' access to secondary school services in the following areas: instructional opportunities, credit accumulation, and counseling and support services.

Statement - This resolution should be retained. A migratory child is one whose family moves across the country seeking seasonal or temporary work in the agricultural, dairy, or fishery industry. Migratory children experience constant mobility and academic interruption, social and cultural isolation, and poor health and poverty, which contribute to his or her lower academic achievement. We must continue to support opportunities that will ensure migrant children have access to and benefit from the same free, appropriate public education that is provided to other children.

RETENTION #4

Paper Recycling and Recycled Paper Use - 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, R-'91)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge units and councils to reduce paper waste and encourage schools to reduce paper waste; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA encourage PTAs at local, region, state, and national levels to use recycled paper in their PTA work; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA urge the National PTA to promote the use of recycled paper and paper recycling in schools.

Statement - Based on the research at hand, we know that paper recycling saves trees, reduces energy and water consumption, and reduces air pollution. For those reasons this resolution should be retained.

RETENTION #5

Healthy Choices – 2012 (R'05)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. raise awareness of and educate children and youth, parents, school personnel, and the community about healthy choices; and be it further

Resolved that New York State PTA encourage units and councils to advocate for healthy choices in the home, school and community; and be it further

Resolved that New York State PTA urge parents to participate in school wellness committees and work to establish policies regarding healthy choices; and be it further

Resolved that New York State PTA encourage decision makers, including legislators, to implement, support and fund programs and activities that foster healthy choices.

Statement - Lifelong health problems can be caused by lifestyle or environmental barriers which prevent or discourage healthful decisions regarding diet and physical activity. Educating children and youth, parents, and the community is the first step in improving decision making for healthy children. Schools play a critical role by establishing a safe and supportive environment with practices and policies supporting healthy behaviors, as well as providing opportunities to educate children and families about the benefits of making healthy choices.

RETENTION #6

Elimination of Trans Fats from School Foods – 2012 (R'05) (Retain)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. is concerned about obesity and other diet-related diseases and their effects upon children and youth, and supports the elimination of non-naturally occurring trans fats from school foods; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA actively work to reduce non-naturally occurring trans fats from school meals a la carte vending choices, foods available for sale at after-school events and other events, and foods used in fundraising; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA encourage units and councils to work actively to educate school administrators, faculty, food service providers, parents and children about healthy food choices.

Statement -The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has placed a ban on non-naturally occurring trans fats in 2018. While this has proved to be effective, manufacturers are still able to petition the FDA for permission to add trans fats to their products.

RETENTION #7

Safeguarding Exploited and Missing Children – 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, R-'91, R-'84) (UPDATE)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge their school districts to develop procedures for the registration of new students that would include a special check on individual students whose records are missing, incomplete, or suspicious to verify their validity; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA seek and support legislation that will toughen the laws and enforce more stringent punishment of perpetrators of serious and repeated sexual abuse crimes and murders against children.

Statement - Although laws have been strengthened and enforce more stringent punishment of perpetrators of serious and repeated sexual abuse crimes and murders against children, we should continue to advocate for stricter punishment of repeat offenders.

RETENTION #8

TV and Internet Control Devices – 2012 (R-'05, U-'98, R-'91, R-'84)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge PTA units to educate their members as to the availability of parent control devices for both TV and the Internet.

Statement -This resolution should be retained. Internet access today is more widely available to family members at home and in public places, as well as on smart devices that provide internet access. For this reason, the continued education on the availability of parental controls is necessary.

RETENTION #9

Ban of Standardized Testing of Young Children- 2012 (R-'05, R-'98, R-'91)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge local school districts to stop the mass use of standardized tests from preschool through second grade (with exception of mandated bilingual and certain special education assessments); and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA urge local school districts to develop and replace standardized tests below the third grade with alternative assessment methods that go by various names (authentic, appropriate, performance based and direct) and will provide useful data and genuine accountability; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA urge that the State Education Department, State Board of Regents, State Legislature, and local school districts NOT call for new or additional standardized tests below the third grade and NOT rely on existing standardized tests below the third grade as indicators of educational progress; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA urge councils and local units to provide information to parents about developmentally appropriate alternative means of assessment.

Statement - In 2014, a ban on the administration of standardized assessments for grades K-2 was enacted as a part of the New York State Budget. However, because of concern regarding the continued overuse and possible misuse of assessment for our youngest learners, we seek to retain this resolution.

RETENTION #10

Fundraising Position – 2012 (R-'05, R-'98)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek to prevent the exploitation of children through PTA fundraising; and be it further

Resolved that children and youth should never sell door-to-door for PTA; and be it further

Resolved that children and youth should never be offered prize incentives for fundraising; and be it further

Resolved that the New York State PTA educate its units and councils about the dangers involved in fundraising practices which utilize children in the generation of sales and revenue; and be it further

Resolved that all PTAs re-examine their fundraising practices as to whether those activities promote PTA's objects and purposes.

Statement -This resolution should be retained. PTA is, first and foremost, an advocacy association, not a group focused on fundraising. This resolution should remain a valid PTA position so that all PTAs can continuously re-examine their fundraising practices in order to promote PTA's mission and purposes.

RETENTION #11

Identifying Unsafe School Crossings on State Roads – 2012 (R-'05, R-'98)

Resolved that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. support the passage of legislation which would enable the Department of Transportation to expend funds on identified risk areas and for the purpose of erecting, maintaining, and upkeep of traffic signals on state, county, and local roads.

Statement -This resolution should be retained. Current New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law still does not allow state funds to be used for the installation and maintenance of traffic signals at school intersections on state roads.